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OUTRAGE AS NEW IRA KILL BRAVE JOURNALIST

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FREE Brilliant 7-day TV guide

BRITAIN'S £20BN HOLIDAY BOOM

Boost for economy as millions pick UK for summer break

By **Mark Reynolds**

BRITAIN is best for holidays, millions have decided.

Families are expected to spend up to £20billion on staycations this year.

More than half the population are planning their main summer holiday in the UK, say experts.

Around eight million are already enjoying UK breaks this Easter and seaside bookings for later are rocketing.

Uncertainty over Brexit and memories of last year's long hot summer – which many believe will be repeated – have made our beaches top choice.

Tourism body VisitBritain is predicting a bumper season and says that inland destinations will benefit as well as resorts

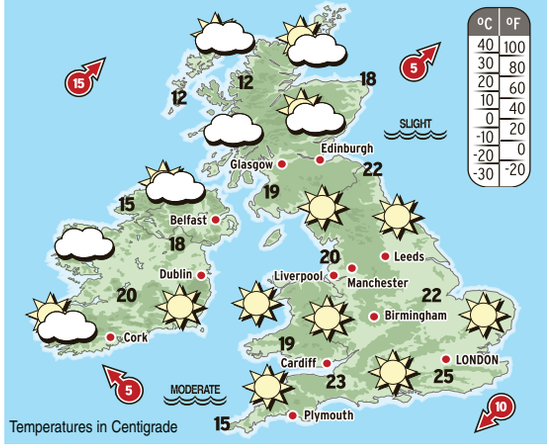
TURN TO PAGE 2

Sizzling Saturday! Dash to the seaside as we bake in 25c

SEE PAGES 2&3

DXIST

Weather forecast



North West: It will be fine and dry with long periods of spring sunshine. Gentle southerly winds. Warm. High 23C (73F).

Northern Ireland: Sunny spells in the south and east. Mostly cloudy in the north-west. Light winds. Warm. High 19C (66F).

Wales: Once any fog clears in the early morning, it will be dry, warm and sunny. Gentle winds. High 22C (72F).

Midlands: It is forecast to be a dry day with blue skies and spring sunshine. Light winds. Warm. High 22C (72F).

North East/Yorks: It will be a dry day with clear skies and sunshine. A fine evening. Light winds. Warm. High 22C (72F).

Scotland: Dry, warm and sunny in the south-east but cloudy and possibly damp in the north-west. High 22C (72F).

East Anglia: It is expected to be dry and fine with lengthy spells of sunshine. Light winds. Warm. High 23C (73F).

London/South East: A dry day with clear skies and bright sunshine. Gentle north-easterly winds. Warm. High 24C (75F).

South: Fine and dry with long periods of spring sunshine. Gentle north-easterly winds. Warm. High 24C (75F).

South West: It will be dry and fine with lengthy spells of sunshine. Gentle easterly winds. Warm. High 22C (72F).

Channel Isles: A dry and fine day with plenty of bright sunshine. Moderate north-easterly winds. Warm. High 18C (64F).

Sea: North Sea: Moderate. Irish Sea: Slight. Channel: Moderate.

UK OUTLOOK TOMORROW: A foggy start in places. Then it will be dry, warm and sunny for England and Wales. Cloud and rain for parts of Scotland and Northern Ireland.

SIX-DAY FORECAST

Temperatures in Centigrade

	SUN min	SUN max	MON min	MON max	TUE min	TUE max	WED min	WED max	THU min	THU max	FRI min	FRI max
London	9	24	12	23	12	21	9	17	10	16	10	17
Belfast	10	19	10	18	9	17	8	14	8	14	7	14
Birmingham	9	22	11	21	11	20	8	16	9	15	9	17
Cardiff	8	23	12	21	11	19	9	15	10	15	10	15
Glasgow	10	19	10	19	8	19	8	16	9	15	8	14
Manchester	10	22	12	22	11	19	9	17	9	16	8	16
Newcastle	8	20	8	18	7	15	7	16	6	15	6	14
Norwich	7	19	10	18	10	16	9	16	8	16	8	15
Plymouth	9	18	12	16	10	15	9	12	9	13	9	13

Britain Thursday

24 hours to 5pm	SUN (hrs)	RAIN (ins)	TEMP (min)	TEMP (max)		SUN (hrs)	RAIN (ins)	TEMP (min)	TEMP (max)
Aberdeen	10.7	0.00	5	16	Glasgow	10.4	0.00	5	21
Aberporth	8.5	0.00	10	20	Hull	11.8	0.00	4	17
Alnwick	10.3	0.01	4	12	Ipswich	12.2	0.00	7	21
Belfast	7.5	0.00	7	19	Leeds	10.9	0.00	5	22
Birmingham	12.0	0.00	5	22	Lincoln	11.2	0.00	5	20
B'mouth	12.0	0.00	8	24	London	11.9	0.00	9	24
Bristol	11.6	0.00	8	22	Manchester	11.8	0.00	5	22
Cardiff	10.4	0.00	10	21	Oxford	11.7	0.00	5	22
Durham	10.8	0.00	3	20	S'hampton	12.5	0.00	11	24
Edinburgh	9.6	0.00	4	18	St Andrews	8.9	0.00	6	12

Moon, sun and tides

MOON rises: 9.25pm, sets: 6.51am
SUN rises London: 5.55am, sets: 8.05pm
Manchester rises: 5.58am, sets: 8.18pm

Last Quarter
26 April

HIGH TIDE

London B'ge	(3.07am), (3.32pm)
Liverpool	(12.19am), (12.37pm)
Greenock	(1.56am), (1.59pm)
Dover	(12.20am), (12.42pm)

Britain Extremes: (24 hours to 2pm yesterday)
Warmest: Gosport 23C (73F)
Coldest: Shap 0C (32F)
Wettest: Boulmer 0.01in.
Sunniest: East malling 12.8hr.

Lighting-up times

Belfast	8.36pm-6.08am	Glasgow	8.33pm-5.57am
Birmingham	8.14pm-5.57am	London	8.05pm-5.53am
Bristol	8.14pm-6.02am	Manchester	8.18pm-5.56am
		Newcastle	8.19pm-5.49am

Europe forecast

Today			Tomorrow		
Amsterdam	Sunny	22C/72F	Amsterdam	Sunny	20C/68F
Brussels	Sunny	24C/75F	Brussels	Sunny	22C/72F
Dublin	Fair	19C/66F	Dublin	Sunny	18C/64F
Frankfurt	Sunny	24C/75F	Frankfurt	Sunny	24C/75F
Geneva	Sunny	22C/72F	Geneva	Fair	20C/68F
Lisbon	Sunny	25C/77F	Lisbon	Sunny	22C/72F
Madrid	Fair	21C/70F	Madrid	Cloudy	15C/59F
Paris	Sunny	24C/75F	Paris	Sunny	24C/75F
Rome	Sunny	21C/70F	Rome	Sunny	21C/70F

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IPSO Regulated

Rush to the beaches as Britain gets set for 'hottest ever' Easter

By **Hanna Geissler**

WEATHER experts were last night predicting a record-breaking heatwave over Easter.

Britain is set to be hotter than Madrid, Marrakesh and Athens this weekend – today it will hit 25C (77F) and Easter Sunday could even be the warmest since records began more than 175 years ago, with 26C predicted.

Further record-breaking highs of up to 28C have been forecast for Monday and Tuesday, before Wednesday heralds a "breakdown of these warm conditions".

Yesterday, thousands raced to the beach to make the most of the sunshine and sales of barbecues and picnic food soared.

Sunseekers flocked to Bournemouth, where temperatures soared to an ice cream-melting 23C.

Taking a punt... Lucy Laphan, 21, soaks up the sun from the River Cam as Britain enjoys warmer weather than cities such as Madrid

Boost

An estimated 7.4 million Brits enjoying a "staycation" in the UK are expected to give the economy a £1.8bn boost as they flock to restaurants and hotels.

Nicola Goode, from Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, said: "On Friday morning alone, there were 5,000 people down at Bournemouth beach with that set to double in the afternoon.

"With this being an extended weekend, we could see even more than that over the coming days which is a real boost for the town."

The sizzling heat has already caused problems, however, with firefighters battling blazes on Cornwall's Bodmin Moor and the Lyme Park in Cheshire.

Police have also warned people to take care in the water after two swimmers died off Aberdeen.

The women, aged 22 and 36, were spotted in difficulty at about 12.40am on Friday. Police have called the deaths of the foreign nationals a "tragic accident".

Bookmaker Coral has slashed the odds on temperatures reaching 30C in the UK over the Easter weekend to 4-5 (from 2-1).

The company's John Hill said: "It's been a glorious start to the Bank Holiday weekend and with temperatures set to rise further over the next few days, the odds have been cut on 30C being reached and for this to end as the hottest Easter ever in the UK."

The warmest Easter weekend on record was in 1949, when the mercury reached a blistering 29C in Camden Square, London, on Holy Saturday.

COMMENT

PATRICIA YATES

Director of VisitBritain

IT IS great more of us are getting out and exploring the outstanding destinations, experiences and visitor attractions across the UK this Easter weekend.

Not only will we have a great time, we will boost businesses, visitor attractions and local economies, kicking off the tourism season.

The ease and convenience and the quality of destinations, accommodation and attractions have seen domestic holidays grow.

Tourism is extremely competitive: other countries promote heavily to UK holidaymakers and we must offer great experiences so people come back time after time.

We need to keep telling the stories of our people and our places, unexplored locations and new experiences, inspiring holidaymakers to discover more, travel further and stay longer, to drive tourism and its economic benefits right across the country.

The bid for a tourism sector deal in the Government's industrial strategy, recognising tourism is one of our key industries, will ensure we continue to work together with businesses and organisations to cement the competitiveness of one of Britain's great industries.

Holidays

FROM PAGE ONE

on the coast. Britons took 57.9 million holidays in the UK in 2018, spending £14.3billion. But experts believe these figures will be much higher this year, potentially topping £20billion.

The 2019 Staycation Index analysed bookings data and consumer research to reveal the most popular UK destinations, as well as the nation's views on holidays.

The research revealed that two thirds of Britons chose to take a break in the UK at least once in 2018, up from 56 per cent who said

OPINION 14 OBITS 39 PUZZLES 42 TRAVEL 47 MOTORING 60 CITY 63 SPORT 65

Clockwise from above, Weymouth; Myleene Klass in London; Bobby and Evie Smith in Lytham St Annes; man and dog in Southport

MEANWHILE IN MAGALUF...

Crowds avoid the beach in Mallorca as the cold and dark clouds roll in

on the home front set to bring in £20bn

they staycationed in 2017. The trend for holidaying at home is now spreading to main family summer breaks.

VisitBritain director Patricia Yates said: "We are hearing from many destinations that they are looking ahead to a strong summer season.

" The certainty of budgeting for a holiday at home, the ease and convenience and the quality on offer are all tempting people."

The boost in British breaks is partly due to Brexit, with a quarter of those asked saying that uncertainty surrounding the UK's EU exit has encouraged them to holiday at home this year.

This increases to 38 per cent of those aged 18-24. Last year's unusually warm weather has also persuaded holidaymakers to stay in Britain.

More than one in 10 polled say that last year's exceptional heatwave has influenced their travel choices for this year.

Graham Donoghue, CEO of Sykes Holiday Cottages who drew up the index, said: "The UK offers everything from beach breaks to adrenaline-fueled adventures, meaning staycations are every bit as attractive as a holiday anywhere else in the world." He added: "Although Brexit has played a part, a number of other factors are boosting staycation bookings, and I expect the growth of British breaks to continue."

VisitBritain's Patricia Yates

Popular tourism areas around the country confirmed they were celebrating a resurgence in fortunes.

Traditional seaside resorts such as Scarborough and Blackpool in the North and Brighton Bournemouth in the South are expected to get a boost.

Others are choosing city destinations like London.

The research found that 44 per cent of those questioned felt that there is no need to go abroad because the UK has so much more to offer holidaymakers.

Another 41 per cent said it was less stressful to stay in the UK than face airport security delays with 13percent admitting that they had a fear of flying.

The study found that British families will spend an average of £925 on their main UK break, including accommodation, travel, food and spending money.

But almost a third will spend less than £500.

A separate study by financial comparison site Finder.com also found that more than 56 per cent of us are planning to choose holidays in the UK over EU mini-breaks this summer.

TOP CHOICES

1. London
2. Scarborough
3. Blackpool
4. Manchester
5. Liverpool
6. York
7. Skegness
8. New Forest
9. Torbay
10. Newquay
11. Birmingham
12. Brighton
13. Bournemouth
14. Great Yarmouth
15. Bath
16. Weymouth
17. Harrogate
18. Leeds
19. Chester
20. Windermere

‘Absolute madness’ as

By **Cyril Dixon**

FURY gripped Northern Ireland last night after hardline republicans tried to excuse the killing of a crusading journalist by the IRA’s latest murderous offshoot.

Sara Canning, partner of Lyra McKee, 29, led condemnation of the “barbaric act” which crushed the couple’s “hopes and dreams”.

Ms McKee is believed to have been shot dead by a gunman from the dissident New IRA as she covered a battle between police and masked rioters on Thursday night.

In a final tweet, she had posted a photograph of the scene in Londonderry, adding: “Absolute madness”.

Police last night released CCTV footage of a masked man suspected of having shot dead Ms McKee.

The footage shows her lifting her phone to take pictures moments before she was killed.

As the camera moves, what is believed to be a gunman is shown lurking near the corner of a nearby building.

He is then spotted later on in the same area just moments before he takes aim at officers.

Police in Ireland are now on the hunt for the masked gunman and have called the killing of Ms McKee “senseless and appalling”.

‘Lyra’s death must not be in vain because her life was a shining light’

Detective superintendent Jason Murphy said: “People saw the gunman and people saw those who goaded young people out on to the streets, people know who they are.

“The answers to what happened last night lie within the community. I am asking people to do the right thing for Lyra McKee, for her family and for the city of Derry/Londonderry and help us stop this madness.”

Earlier, radical republicans Saoradh claimed Ms McKee died accidentally after police “engineered confrontation with the community”.

But Stephen Martin, deputy chief constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, said: “The gunman and those who share his warped ideology should hang their heads in shame today – they represent no one.”

Ms Canning, also 29, said her partner – who edited US website Mediagazer – was a “shining light” and champion for gay people.

“Our hopes and dreams and all of her amazing potential was snuffed out by this single barbaric act,” she added.

“Victims and LGBTQI community are left without a tireless advocate and activist.

“Lyra’s death must not be in vain because her life was a shining light in everyone else’s life and her legacy will live on.”

Prime Minister Theresa May led political reaction to the “shocking and senseless” murder while Irish Premier Leo Varadkar said: “We as a people, north and south, chose peace, democracy, power-sharing and ever closer co-operation, and we will not be dragged into the past.” Ms McKee became a big name in journalistic circles after writing a 2014 blog which spoke about the difficulties of growing up gay in Belfast.

Ian Murray, Society of Editors executive director, said: “Lyra was a tremendous talent and the journalistic world has lost one of its bright hopes for the future.”

Police said the unrest that sparked the tragedy began on the Creggan estate when officers mounted a search operation in a bid to avert problems at this week’s march to mark the anniversary of the Easter Rising. Youths began throwing petrol bombs at police, cars were set alight, and handgun shots were fired. One fatally wounded Ms McKee.

Assistant chief constable Mark Hamilton said: “Our assessment at this time is that the New IRA are most likely to be behind this.”

Saoradh issued a statement describing the murder as a “heartbreaking” accident.

It added: “The blame for last night lies squarely at the feet of the British Crown Forces, who sought to grab headlines and engineered confrontation with the community.”

Police officer lays a floral tribute to Lyra McKee

Veterans march against witch hunts

By **John Twomey**

THE witch hunt against Northern Ireland veterans brought up to eight thousand ex-servicemen to London yesterday to condemn what they call The Great Betrayal.

Massed ranks of former soldiers were joined by ex-Navy and RAF personnel for a march along the Mall to Parliament to show their anger at the injustice of targeting veterans of the Troubles while terrorists go free.

The demonstrators, pictured above, first marched to Buckingham Palace where they sang God Save the Queen, then to Parliament Square.

Ex-Grenadier Guardsman Roy Brinkley, 62, commented: “This is tremendous support for our cause, a tremendous turn-out.

“It’s fantastic and really heartwarming. Only by working together we will beat this injustice.”

The Daily Express Betrayal Of Our Veterans crusade has won praise from servicemen for championing their cause – but the witch hunt goes on.

This week an elderly veteran became the sixth soldier prosecuted over the Troubles.

Known only as Soldier B and now in his 70s, he is accused of the murder of a 15-year-old boy and of wounding another teenager with intent in 1972.

Yet more than 500 convicted terrorists, mostly from the IRA, were freed from prison early under the Labour government’s 1998 Good Friday Agreement.

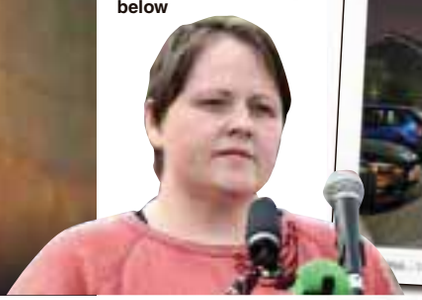
Many others were issued with official “letters of comfort” declaring they were not being pursued for murders, bombings and other offences.

Ex-soldiers are still being pursued, however.

Former foreign secretary Boris Johnson has criticised the new Historical Investigations Unit handling the cases, saying: “It will achieve nothing except the misery of a few old men.

“It will serve as a terrible warning to anyone thinking of joining the services – that politics sometimes trumps justice.”

journalist shot dead



Lyra McKee, inset, was reporting on rioting in Derry, above, when she was shot by a masked gunman, circled left. Right, her last tweet and partner Sara Canning, below

New IRA stands accused of at least four murders

By **Cyril Dixon**

THE New IRA are heirs to the old Provisional killers who spearheaded terror throughout the Northern Ireland Troubles.

Following the killing of Lyra McKee, police blame them for at least three other murders.

Northern Ireland's assistant chief constable Mark Hamilton said the "violent dissident republicans" were the "most likely" perpetrators for letter bombs sent to targets including Heathrow and London City airports last month.

Previously called the Real IRA, they started in the late 1990s, leaving the Provisionals in objection to the ceasefire. They rose to grim prominence by planting the Omagh bomb, which killed 29 people in August 1998.

The group became riven by feuds and the name New IRA came after it merged with several smaller groups in 2011.

Its first murder under the new franchise was of Catholic policeman Ronan Kerr, 25, outside his home in Omagh. It was also linked to the deaths of prison officers David Black and Adrian Ismay in 2012 and 2016 respectively.

Mr Black, 52, was gunned down as he drove to work in Maghaberry Prison, Lisburn.

Mr Ismay, also 52, was killed by a bomb planted under his van as he drove in East Belfast.

COMMENT

SAMUEL ARMSTRONG
Henry Jackson Society

THOSE individuals involved in this latest terrible atrocity are likely to have grown up in the post-Troubles age.

But this new generation are young men who are angry and well-armed.

It is a dangerous trend, and unintended outbreaks of violence are more likely than ever.

Much has been said about how Brexit jeopardised the peace in Northern Ireland. But the greater risk is the demographics of terrorism.

The Province has always been a tinderbox. But there are now more matches dancing and the box is in less control than ever.

Journalists are one of the few professions – outside the emergency services – who when confronted with a riot run towards the centre.

On the few occasions over the past days when police have cleared eco-protesters strangling London, journalists have been there to run towards the heart of the action.

The risks are obvious; by the time they retire, security correspondents often resemble the walking wounded.

Tragedy

While Thursday was a freak tragedy for Lyra McKee, the heroism she showed is demonstrated by hundreds of British reporters who take such risks every day.

Such an atrocity would have been a faint possibility during the Troubles.

There were virtually no deaths of journalists prior to the Good Friday Agreement and when journalists were kidnapped they were released.

The one journalist deliberately killed by terrorism in Northern Ireland, Martin O'Hagan, died in 2001. O'Hagan, a former IRA terrorist himself was killed by a unionist paramilitary over his reporting on drug dealing.

The IRA knew targeting journalists would have cost it in the public eye.

Had a journalist had been caught in the crossfire, the act would be disavowed – the culprit facing the euphemistic "internal discipline".

However, the demise of the IRA means that paramilitaries are now younger, less-disciplined and lack organised leadership.

DAILY EXPRESS

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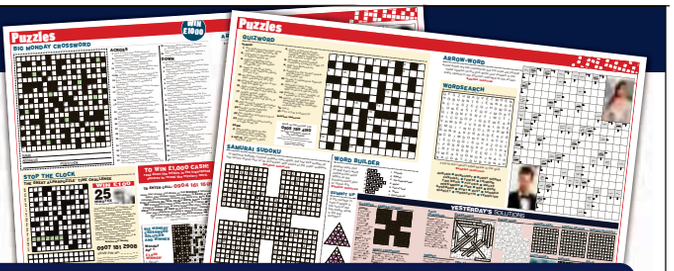

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Hunt: My horror at plight of persecuted Christians

By **Sam Lister**
Deputy Political Editor

FOREIGN Secretary Jeremy Hunt spoke of his faith today, as he launched a campaign blitz to support persecuted Christians.

Mr Hunt has written 40 letters to bolster the spirits of people under attack for their beliefs across the world.

They included a message to 90-year old Dutch missionary Brother Andrew, who founded Open Doors, a charity supporting persecuted Christians.

At the height of the Cold War, he risked his life by smuggling bibles to Christians in communist countries.

Mr Hunt said: "As a man of faith, free to practise in line with my conscience, I am appalled at the plight of the 245 million Christians worldwide currently facing persecution as a result of their belief.

"I want you to know that the UK stands in solidarity with persecuted Christians around the world.

"Freedom of religion or belief is a human right enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. People from all faiths or none should be free to practise as they wish.

"I will continue to make this case for the millions who suffer as a result of their beliefs and British diplomats will continue to advocate for all those denied the right to practise their faith."

Open Doors says about 245 million Christians were persecuted last year, with an average of 300 killed every month. It says persecution is most extreme in North Korea, followed by Afghanistan and Somalia.

The Prince of Wales also raised the issue in a newspaper article, saying: "It is all too easy at this time, I know, to feel overwhelmed by the darkness, and by all that is going on in the world.

"It is truly devastating to know of the numbers of people of all faiths around the world who are suffering simply because of their religion."

Among the most high-profile cases is Asia Bibi, a Christian woman who faced death threats after being acquitted of blasphemy in Pakistan.

She spent eight years on death row after being accused of insulting the Prophet Mohammad until her conviction was overturned last year, which sparked violent protests. She has been in hiding since. Open Doors has reported a surge in persecution across China, accusing President Xi Jinping of overseeing a crackdown on the faithful.

In December Mr Hunt launched an independent review of persecution, which is being led by the Bishop of Truro, the Rt Rev Philip Mounstephen.

Open Doors chief executive Henrietta Blyth said Mr Hunt's review was a "great first step", but added: "The proof of the pudding will be if it delivers concrete change for persecuted Christians and if its recommendations are also adopted by other government departments."

DAILY EXPRESS VOTE

Q Should persecuted Christians get more support?

YES: 0901 133 4440
NO: 0901 133 4441
Yes text DXYES to 84988
No text DXNO to 84988

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May shows the way for runners

Has she got the bottle… Mrs May

By **Liz Perkins**

PRIME Minister Theresa May makes sure runners are on the right route at a 10-kilometre race in her constituency yesterday.

Mrs May, who has just returned from a walking holiday in Snowdonia, pulled on a fluorescent marshal jacket to give directions to runners in the annual Easter race in Maidenhead, Berks, first staged in 1953.

She looked relaxed as she gave one runner a high-five, signed another's race badge and laughed and joked with others taking part.

Mrs May also applauded the runners as they raced past, poured out water for the competitors and even found time to pose for a selfie.

She will return to Westminster next week with Brexit high on the agenda and the debate over the EU Withdrawal Agreement continuing.

At least she know's where she's going… directing runners yesterday

CHURCHES GO CONTACTLESS

CHRISTIANS can now support their local church without putting their hand in their pocket, thanks to contactless payments.

The Church of England has unveiled contactless donation plates at St Albans Cathedral, St Mary Abbots in Kensington, west London and Dorchester Abbey. The scheme, run by GoodBox, is also being rolled out to 16,000 other churches.

The Rev Canon Kevin Walton, from St Albans Cathedral, said that in "an increasingly cashless society", going contactless was "essential".

Sir Mick steps out to see his girlfriend's show in New York

Strangle me! Fan's selfie plea to Killing Eve assassin Jodie

By **Frances Millar**

KILLING Eve TV star Jodie Comer has revealed that a crazed female fan once asked if she would strangle her while posing for a selfie.

Since catapulting to global stardom as psychopathic assassin Villanelle in the hit BBC drama series Jodie, 26, has won an army of new fans.

But it would appear that some confuse her murderous on-screen persona for the real-life Liverpool-born actress.

"A lot of people just look at me in a 'Is it her?' sort of way," Jodie told BBC One's The Graham Norton Show, shown last night.

"But recently I had a really strange one – a woman asked for a photograph with me and then she whispered in my ear, 'Will you strangle me?' I said, 'No!'"

Killing Eve recently picked up 14 TV Bafta nominations, with stars Jodie and Canadian actress Sandra Oh both up for the best actress gong.

Pressure

The darkly comic cat-and-mouse crime drama sees Sandra play MI5 operative Eve Polastri, who becomes obsessed with Jodie's sinister killer character.

Killing Eve was an instant critical and commercial success when it debuted last year but Jodie admitted it has been a nerve-racking wait to see how the follow-up will be received.

"There is a lot more pressure because of expectations and everyone is waiting on tenterhooks for it to come out," said Jodie, who is also known for roles in family saga Doctor Foster, which stars Suranne Jones.

"But once you start filming, you just have to put that to one side."

After her appearance on The Graham Norton Show alongside US actress Anne Hathaway, Australian star Rebel Wilson and Harry Potter actor Daniel Radcliffe, Jodie took her "dream" opportunity to have a go on host Norton's infamous back-flipping armchair.

She shared a clip of herself on Instagram settling into the chair nervously, before suddenly being tipped backwards – sending the actress into fits of giggles.

Jodie told fans: "Massive thank you to Graham Norton and the team for having me on the show. I lived out my red chair dream!"

The Big Red Chair segment on the chat show sees audience members tell an extraordinary true tale in front of a panel of celebrity guests.

But at any point Norton can pull the dreaded lever, flipping the chair backwards and sending the audience member flying.

Killing Eve was adapted by BBC Fleabag star Phoebe Waller-Bridge from Luke Jennings' Codename Villanelle novella series.

Jodie chats to Norton and, inset, with Killing Eve co-star Sandra Oh

FLEABAG THE BOND GIRL: PAGE 23

Ballet steps for Jagger as he recovers after heart op

By **Liz Perkins**

SIR Mick Jagger looked a picture of health as he headed to the ballet to see girlfriend Melanie Hamrick perform.

The Rolling Stones singer, who recently underwent heart surgery, smiled and said "good" when asked how he was feeling.

The 75-year-old had two security guards at his side as he stepped inside the back of the Lincoln Centre in New York on Thursday evening. It is the first such event Sir Mick has been seen at since having a transcatheter aortic valve replacement earlier this month.

Melanie, 32, wrote and starred in the ballet Porte Rouge, which is set to Rolling Stones classics and has been orchestrated by Sir Mick.

The star wanted to be at the David H Koch Theatre at the Lincoln Centre to see the world premiere of the piece and to congratulate the performers following the ballet.

The Stones were forced to postpone the North American leg of their No Filter tour after their frontman failed a medical.

He underwent surgery in New York just days later.

At the time Sir Mick turned to social media to say he was "devastated" at the news which saw 17 dates postponed.

Apologising to fans on Twitter, he added: "I really hate letting you down like this.

"I'm devastated for having to postpone the tour, but I will be working very hard to be back on stage as soon as I can."

Sir Mick is expected to make a full recovery but will have to take about three months off touring.

Ballet star Melanie, 32

DX1ST

HOME SECRETARY SAJID JAVID WRITES

Crime is the public's

HOME Secretary Sajid Javid says he recognises that ending the knife crime epidemic sweeping Britain is now more important to the public than health.

The father of four opens his heart to the Daily Express today, telling how he fears for his children's safety as he makes it a personal mission to tackle the bloody scourge head on.

Giving a searingly honest and deeply moving account, he explains how the "national emergency" of serious violence has left him shaken to the core. In his most frank and hard-hitting remarks since becoming Home Secretary almost exactly one year ago, Mr Javid, 49, reveals how he endlessly worries about children Sophia, Rania, Suli and Maya as he sets about trying to stop families being torn apart by needless bloodshed.

And making reference to his own upbringing he says he will fight to give underprivileged and disadvantaged young people opportunities to shine in a society fit for all.

GILES SHELDRICK
CHIEF REPORTER

WHEN my mobile phone was snatched out of my hands by a moped rider outside a train station a few years ago, I was left angry, shaken and vulnerable.

By the inconvenience, yes. But, more importantly, by the fact that the streets felt slightly less safe than they had just minutes before.

Every time someone commits a mugging, a burglary, an act of vandalism, it damages our society.

It makes us feel less safe and reduces the sense of trust and community that binds us all together.

The recent rise in serious violence has also served to erode these bonds even further.

On a weekly basis, we are waking up to the news that there has been more bloodshed on our streets, with another person stabbed or attacked.

Last year, we saw a 14 per cent increase in homicides and a 15 per cent increase in hospital admissions for assaults involving a sharp instrument. It's reached the point that, for the first time, crime is now a more important issue to the public than health.

I'm sure all Express readers will agree with me when I say that we cannot and must not ignore the damage crime causes.

And when it comes to the recent surge in violence, we need to treat it as a national emergency.

Like many parents with teenagers, I've laid in bed at night waiting for them to come in from nights out safe and sound. I think to myself, what if they are out in the wrong place at the wrong time? What if they get into an argument that then escalates?

Since becoming Home Secretary, I've met grieving parents who have faced the tragic reality of losing children to knife crime.

On every occasion, the sheer anguish and distress they have faced has left a lasting mark on me.

Many have lost children of a similar age to mine – hammering home the stark reality of the situation we are facing. It's these personal experiences that have driven my determination to reverse this trend and stop the killings.

It's these experiences which have informed the blueprint of how I want to tackle this scourge.

Earlier this week I set out my vision to tackle the root causes of crime.

It starts with preventing our children and young people from picking up knives in the first place.

This is exactly why our Serious Violence Strategy combines tough law enforcement with a focus on early intervention. Early intervention means engaging with vulnerable young people before they turn to a destructive life of crime.

It's about offering them hope, an alternative to life on the streets.

We are investing more than £220million in this work to fund grassroots organisations that turn the lives of vulnerable young people around.

Coming from an underprivileged neighbourhood myself, I know all too well how disadvantaged young

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EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE DAILY EXPRESS

priority, not health

people can be set up to fail. They may struggle in school, have chaotic family lives and be given limited opportunities.

It's this feeling of hopelessness and a desire to belong that drives some young people into the arms of gangs and to carry knives for protection.

I was one of the fortunate ones. I had loving and supportive parents who worked tirelessly to give me and my siblings a better future.

It shouldn't, however, be left to chance.

NO child's future should be pre-determined by their circumstances and if they want to make a change for the better it's our responsibility to support them.

That's why we are introducing a public health approach that will help our hard-working teachers, health workers and social workers support young people at risk of getting drawn into crime.

Once identified, they will be given that necessary support to divert them from going down the wrong path.

There are many organisations supported through our early intervention funding who are doing fantastic work to turn around the lives of vulnerable young people.

They include Redthread – a charity which works in A&E departments, intervening at the crucial point when a young person is wheeled into hospital after being stabbed.

We also support St Giles Trust, who provide specialist help for young people affected by gang-related violence and exploitation.

Its projects are run by youth workers who found themselves in challenging situations but made it out.

Offering opportunity is also about giving people a second chance, a chance to wipe the slate clean.

That's why I'm looking at disclosure rules around criminal convictions, to help adults who may have had previous minor brushes with the law as youngsters to get on in life.

We must not write off this generation and we must provide a good start for the next.

But we also need immediate action to bring rising violence under control.

I've listened to police about the tools, powers and resources they need to fight this menace.

That's why we're increasing police funding by over a billion pounds this year, including from council tax and our new serious violence fund.

The £100million for serious violence will help tackle crime in hot spot areas that are worst affected.

Police asked for increased stop and search powers – we gave it to them.

And our Offensive Weapons Bill will arm police with more powers to stop knife crime. I have no doubt these measures will help rid our streets of even more weapons and save lives.

When it comes to young lives being cruelly cut short, we must go to the ends of the earth to stop it.

To stop more grieving parents from burying their children.

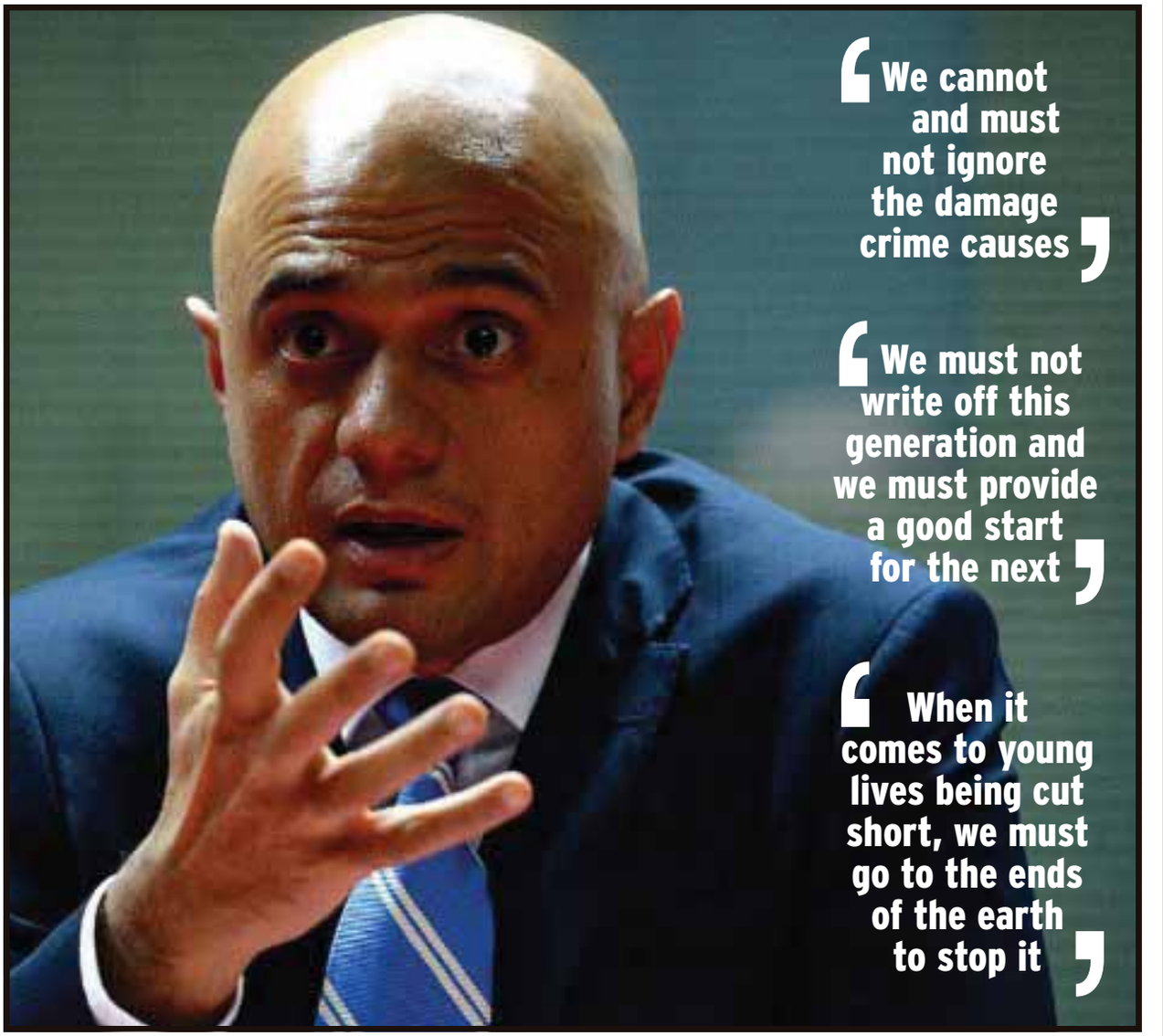
To stop more communities being destroyed by endless violence and lack of opportunity.

Too often discussions around crime are politicised and reduced to simplistic attack lines.

But I'm interested in doing what works based on the best evidence and advice available.

I'm confident that by working together we can stop people becoming both victims and criminals – ensuring young people are not left behind and live a fulfilling life away from crime.

OPINION: PAGE 14



"We cannot and must not ignore the damage crime causes"

"We must not write off this generation and we must provide a good start for the next"

"When it comes to young lives being cut short, we must go to the ends of the earth to stop it"

Police investigate after the fatal stabbing of a man in his 20s in Kentish Town, London, earlier this month

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ECO WARRIOR PROTESTS

Jet-setter Emma denies being climate hypocrite

By **Michael Knowles**
Home Affairs Correspondent

DAME Emma Thompson denied being a climate change hypocrite yesterday despite flying more than 5,000 miles to join green demonstrators in London.

The Oscar-winning British actress, 60, addressed the issue of her own carbon footprint after climbing on to a pink boat placed at Oxford Circus as part of the protests.

Speaking to the crowd for a second day she said: "Sometimes I have to fly, but I don't fly as much as I used to. Where is the hypocrisy? If I could fly cleanly, I would."

Dame Emma, whose flight from Los Angeles to London burned around 70 tons of aviation fuel, added: "It's always turned back on the individual – 'you're the one who flies'. The fact of the matter is, everyone has been asking for clean energy for decades.

"I've watched successive governments sign successive agreements on climate change over the years and then I've watched them absolutely and utterly ignore the agreements that they've made because they're not legally binding.

"I can't describe the level of hypocrisy from our government."

The actress dismissed those who

Disrupted

argued that the protests were draining police resources, saying: "It's not as if we are burning things down. The police have turned up because they were asked to. It is a waste of taxpayers' money."

She admitted the demos were inconveniencing people but said the Suffragettes "disrupted an awful lot of people's lives in order to get something that we now take for granted".

After she had spoken police cleared Oxford Circus of protesters and the pink ship. The Met said that 106 arrests made yesterday brought the total since Monday to 682.

The protest organisers planned at Heathrow Airport yesterday backfired. Extinction Rebellion organiser Robin Ellis-Cockroft boasted: "We said we'd disrupt Heathrow and we've disrupted Heathrow."

But barely 20 people gathered and flights went on as normal.

CAROLE MALONE: PAGE 15

The pink protest boat at Oxford Circus just before it was removed yesterday and Dame Emma, right, on board speaking to the crowd. Left, the protest at Heathrow

Cost of policing the demonstrations 'will run into millions'

By **Michael Knowles**

POLICE warned yesterday that climate change protests will cost millions, as leave was cancelled for officers fighting knife crime.

Officers said protesters had caught the Metropolitan Police top brass "off guard" and the implications would last for months. Police are on double time throughout the Bank Holiday weekend and the force will face a substantial overtime bill as rest days and holidays are being axed.

Senior officers said the tactics used by protesters – lying spread out on the ground – make the demonstrations "very labour intensive" often requiring four officers to arrest one individual.

Ken Marsh, chairman of the Metropolitan Police Federation, said: "This is unprecedented. People are queuing up to be arrested. It is labour draining, resource draining. They have thought about it very, very carefully and caught us off guard.

"The problem is, we have got to have leave. We are not robots, we're human beings. The ramifications are quite clear – at some point officers won't be out doing what they should."

Mr Marsh added: "We're stretched to the limit." The Metropolitan Police confirmed officers from the Violent Crime Task Force, set up to tackle knife and gun crime, were working longer hours. But it said the unit had been "ring-fenced" to ensure there were enough officers to combat violent crime.

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‘Upheaval’ in love life has left me in a spin, says Strictly’s Kevin

Triumphal...Stacey and Kevin and the Strictly trophy

By **Tom Bryant**

STRICTLY Come Dancing’s Kevin Clifton has opened up about his turbulent love life, admitting: “I’ve really struggled.”

The dancer, now in a relationship with Strictly partner Stacey Dooley, spoke on the opening night of a dance tour.

Kevin, 36, and the documentary presenter, 32, were crowned champions last year.

But despite the “miracle” of winning the Glitterball Trophy, Kevin has encountered problems in his private life.

He said: “In the past couple of years I’ve seen massive upheaval in my personal life and it hasn’t always been easy and there have been a lot of things thrown at me.

“At times, I’ve struggled. And the times I’ve really struggled and I was in a bit of a rut I didn’t know what to do.”

Kevin has already been wed three times. He first married in 2003, at 20, to amateur Latin world champ Anna Melnikova. By 2007, he was married to Clare Craze, but they separated three years later. In 2015, he wed Karen Hauer. They split in March last year.

Some of Kevin’s previous dance partners have also split from their partners after dancing with him. Louise Redknapp, 44, broke up with husband Jamie in 2017 after dancing with Kevin in 2016.

Newsreader Susanna Reid, 48, paired with Kevin in 2013, also split from her long-term partner soon after her run in the show finished.

Susanna has denied their pairing led to the end of her relationship.

She said: “I call it the Strictly coincidence. Kevin and I got on like a house on fire. Strictly was not responsible for the break-up of my relationship.

“I am still fantastic friends with my ex and really good friends with Kevin.”

Stacey also ended a relationship, splitting from Sam Tucknott, her partner of five years, at Christmas. Speaking about the negative publicity surrounding his personal life, Kevin added: “It gets difficult and I’m not the best at dealing with it. Thanks to Miss Stacey Dooley, I can finally say I’m the Strictly champion after six years of trying. It’s a miracle.”

Family... Kevin introduces Stacey to his parents. ‘Thanks to Miss Stacey Dooley, I can finally say I’m the Strictly champion after six years,’ he said

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Don't miss NICK FERRARI in tomorrow's SUNDAY EXPRESS

'From the moment the middle-class temper tantrum that is Extinction Rebellion began, the authorities have mis-spoken, mis-stepped and messed up'

PLUS FREE S MAGAZINE & SPORT PULLOUT

'Guilty' baronet donates 50 oaks to rebuild Notre-Dame

By **Frances Millar**

AN ECCENTRIC English aristocrat is sending 50 oak trees to help rebuild Notre-Dame – because he feels guilty about his family's history of "killing French people".

Sir Benjamin Slade, 72, said he felt compelled to help rebuild the stricken cathedral in Paris to "make amends" after years of his ancestors battling nobility in France.

One family member, Sir Thomas Slade, designed Horatio Nelson's flagship HMS Victory which led the successful attack against the French and Spanish fleets at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.

The 7th Baronet, who made his millions as a shipping magnate, said he would transport 50 oak trees to France from his 2,000-acre estate at Maunsel House in Somerset.

The Grade II-listed ancestral home is believed to have been built in the late 14th century, and it is thought that Geoffrey Chaucer wrote part of The Canterbury Tales while staying there.

Sir Ben said: "I was shocked at the news about Notre-Dame and I feel a bit guilty about how my family has treated the French over the centuries, especially as one of my ancestors designed Nelson's ship the Victory and built it out of English oak, so I thought this gesture might help to make amends."

A devastating inferno ripped through the famous Paris landmark on Monday night, toppling its spire and destroying most of the roof.

Traditional Holy Week festivities have had to be hastily rearranged. Liturgies for Good Friday and today's Vigil have been moved to the nearby St. Sulpice.

And tomorrow's Easter Mass will be held at St. Eustache, another imposing church only a short stroll from the cathedral.

The rector of Notre-Dame said yesterday that a "computer glitch" might have caused the fire.

Patrick Chauvet did not elaborate, adding only that we will "maybe find out what happened in two or three months".

Investigators continue to question cathedral staff as well as workers who were carrying out renovations on the gothic architectural masterpiece.

But they have not been able to begin searching for evidence as safety hazards have prevented them entering the charred interior.

France's President Emmanuel Macron yesterday hosted officials from the United Nations cultural agency at the Elysee Palace in the French capital to set out ideas for the reconstruction of the iconic cathedral. He met with state delegates from Unesco, which oversees global heritage projects.

The meeting took place as architects and experts assess how to stabilise the World Heritage Site's structure and protect it from the rain.

Meanwhile, scam artists are selling ashes supposedly salvaged from the blaze on eBay.

An unscrupulous seller from the UK listed "Notre-Dame Cathedral Ashes" with a starting bid of £500 on the internet auction site.

The description of the lot was for "approximately 100g" with "free postage".

A computer glitch could be responsible for the devastating Notre-Dame fire

Sir Ben Slade says he wants to help the French because his ancestor helped defeat them at Trafalgar by designing Nelson's flagship HMS Victory

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DAILY EXPRESS

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Knife crime epidemic strikes fear into us all

TODAY Home Secretary Sajid Javid writes movingly and indepth for the Daily Express about his fears as a parent over the scourge of knife crime on our streets. He reveals how this "national emergency' is now more of a concern to the public than health.

We sometimes think of our politicians as being somehow apart from the normal worries of life and cushioned from the things that threaten us all.

So when Mr Javid writes about how he lies awake at night worried about what might happen to his children when they are out with friends, these are words and concerns that resonate with so many people across Britain.

It is some comfort that the man in charge of our police forces goes through the same bouts of anxiety as many thousands of parents do every week.

We are confident that this will motivate Mr Javid and others in power to finally crack down on the criminals who control our streets.

Over the past few days we have seen how a group of extremist climate protesters can bring London to a grinding halt.

While this has been merely irritating rather than perilous, these fringe activists have become symbolic of how we are losing control of our streets.

And nothing underlines that problem more than the terrible death toll from the knife crime epidemic, especially among our young people.

We urge Mr Javid to continue on his mission and deliver on his promises to the public.

The Home Secretary needs to reverse the restrictions on stop-and-search whatever the political consequences and end a culture where political correctness has replaced the first duty of the state which is to protect its citizens.

This carnage and bloodshed on our once safe streets must come to an end – immediately.

Wish you were here!

IN A YEAR that has been defined by political gloom, it is wonderful news that the sun is going to shine this weekend. Apparently this will be the warmest Easter in many years and a perfect time for a staycation in Britain.

Remainers of course, in their usual negativity about Britain, see this as another downside of so-called Brexit uncertainty.

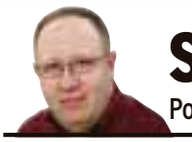
But that is because the Tuscany classes see nothing of value in this country and always fail to appreciate the marvellous attractions available which actually bring in millions of foreign tourists.

So whether you are enjoying the surfers' paradise in Cornwall, the hill-walking in the Lake District or the myriad of stately homes and castles or the other fabulous attractions, we hope that you all have a wonderful Easter break.

Corbyn's ideologues would completely destroy the country

Picture: GETTY

NIGHTMARE: Corbyn lauds the failed state Venezuela



Stephen Pollard
Political commentator

WHAT more devastating an indictment of the current political chaos could there be than that it is now conceivable Jeremy Corbyn could become prime minister?

He may have been Leader of the Opposition since 2015 and fought a general election but there has still been little detailed scrutiny of what a Corbyn government would be like. We have – quite rightly – heard lots about his disgusting support for the IRA, his embrace of terrorists as "friends" and his chairmanship of Stop The War – an organisation dedicated to supporting the enemies of the West.

You would have to have lived in a cave not to be aware that Labour has been engulfed in an anti-Semitism crisis and that even Labour MPs such as Dame Margaret Hodge openly label Mr Corbyn himself as an anti-Semite.

But how many of us are aware of the detailed policies that Labour would implement? Policies that would be ruinous – and would undo all the good work done in the years since Baroness Thatcher turned the country round in the 1980s.

It is time that Labour was scrutinised not simply for the character and views of its leader and those around him, but for the specific policies they want to introduce.

LAST week, for example, Labour's shadow education secretary, Angela Rayner – who is tipped by many as a possible successor to Mr Corbyn – announced that a Labour government would abolish primary school SATs. If she took power, she would scrap the maths and English tests taken by seven and 11-year-old pupils.

When SATs were introduced in 1991, parents had no objective evidence to determine how their children were doing or how schools were doing. All they had was guff – the constant mantra from the education establishment that standards were rising and everything was wonderful. Except they weren't and it wasn't. It was only when test results could be measured independently that we could get a grip on which schools were failing and what the real story was.

But the teaching unions, dominated by the Lefty ideologues who ruined state education before they were taken on and defeated, have always hated SATs. No surprise, therefore, that Labour has pledged to scrap them.

Yesterday 59 academy trust chiefs, head teachers and education experts published a letter stating that these externally set and marked national tests were the most "accurate, fair and objective" way to assess a pupil's progress – and, crucially, that it would be poorer children who would suffer most if Labour abolished SATs.

It has taken years of patient and deliberate work from the Blair government onwards to make significant improvements in state education. Labour would reverse that in one fell swoop.

The truth is that abolishing SATs would be just one example of the disaster a Labour government would usher in.

'These people regard collapse of Soviet Union as a calamity'

Labour plans the biggest shake-up of industrial relations since Baroness Thatcher's vital reforms. Led by people who regard the collapse of the Soviet Union as a calamity, they aim to revolutionise our economy with a series of measures designed to replace individual freedom with collective action.

That would mean introducing so-called "sectoral collective bargaining". Instead of employees negotiating with their own employer, every car worker, every journalist, every accountant, every electrician – you get the picture – would be part of one national pay and terms negotiation.

THE point of this, of course, is to transform the power of the unions, since it would be the unions that acted as employees' national representative.

Remember that Corbyn's Labour sees individuals as servants of the state rather than the other way round. This is not so much a return to the 1970s as the first step towards the "Venezualisation" of the economy because for the Corbynites Venezuela is not a warning to be heeded but a model to be aspired to.

Take the party's commitment to renationalisation. There is a sensible debate to be had over whether rail privatisation has worked. But Labour is not engaged in that debate. Rather, it sees state ownership as an end in itself. In the last election it promised to renationalise National Grid and Royal Mail – pointless proposals that would cost a fortune.

Labour said it would cost nothing – which was revealing, as the only way that could be true is if Labour intended to nationalise without compensating the shareholders. That is theft – but from revolutionary socialists who revere Venezuela, it is entirely to be expected.

These are just some of the concrete plans Labour has for government. Labour would destroy Britain as a functioning free society. Its plans must be scrutinised before it is too late.

Carole Malone

FUN, FEISTY AND FEARLESS

Email me at carole.malone@reachplc.com ● Follow me on Twitter @thecarolemalone

Warriors? More like cowards

IN WHAT other capital city would a bunch of middle-class, self-indulgent eco-warriors be allowed to choke off most of it, crippling business and transport links and hurting people who if they don't work, don't get paid – while they dance, do a bit of yoga, bang drums and superglue themselves to whatever flat surface they can find?

But my question is why are these zealots – who are demanding zero CO_2 emissions by 2025 – demonstrating here in Britain when we have a Climate Change Act that puts us at the vanguard in reducing carbon emissions. We have one of the toughest targets of any country, we contribute just 1.1 per cent to the global total and last year we reduced ours by a whopping two per cent taking levels to the lowest in 120 years.

So why aren't Extinction Rebellion on the streets of Beijing, knowing that China is responsible for a 60 per cent growth in global CO_2 emissions in the past decade?

I'll tell you why – there the coppers wouldn't be dancing the Highland Fling with them or giving them safety helmets and goggles in case they hurt themselves. They'd be firing water cannons, shooting real bullets or throwing them in a cell never to see daylight again. So, they care about climate change – just not enough to go to where the REAL damage is being done.

THERE have been complaints that MPs have scuttled off on their Easter holiday while the country is in chaos. I don't care that they've gone. I'm more frightened about them coming back.

Do as I say, not as I do...

I'M SURE Dame Emma Thompson is feeling very pleased with herself and very Right On having flown 5,400 miles from Los Angeles to join all the other middle-class protesters from Extinction Rebellion.

I just wish Emma, punching the air in her "protest" dungarees, knew how the rest of us see her – spoiled, middle-class, privileged and self-indulgent.

People like her bleat about the carbon footprint – a flight from LA generates 1.67 tonnes of CO_2 – yet contribute way more to it than those of us who can't afford to fly halfway across the world to take part in a demo. It's screaming hypocrisy yet they're so puffed up with their own self-importance they can't see it.

Idiots insulted by an actual compliment!

WHEN I see the words "cultural appropriation", they're usually attached to a news story that I know is going to make me want to rip my eyeballs out. And so it was this week when Gordon Ramsay was accused of this 21st-century, politically incorrect crime because he'd dared to open a pan-Asian restaurant that hasn't got any Asian chefs.

He was slaughtered by one particular female critic who whined that at the launch of Lucky Cat she was the only Asian person in a room full of 30-40 journos. She also made a snide comment about head chef Ben Orwood's missus, referring to her as "the token Asian wife".

I'm sorry, but Gordon Ramsay has earned the right to open whatever kind of restaurant he likes and employ whoever he likes. The man's a Michelin-starred chef for God's sake and whatever food his restaurants serve up, it's going to be good.

If it isn't, the punters will stop coming. So what if his food isn't what purists would call "authentic" Asian. I don't suppose it's meant to be, as all great chefs put their own twist on dishes wherever they're from.

The point is if we live in a multicultural society, which we do, cultural appropriation is inevitable. And it's madness to think we can't admire or even pinch aspects of other people's cultures. Or that we insult them by doing so. One writer hysterically described the fusion of cultures as "visual racism".

It's statements like that which make you realise political correctness has gone nuts in this country. There's nothing that can't be turned into an accusation of racism. It's racist to eat Asian food not cooked by an Asian.

It's racist to have actors who aren't Mexican playing the role of a Mexican (surely the whole point of acting is to be able to play anyone from anywhere). It's racist and denigrating to black women for white women to wear their hair in braids or cornrows. Wear one of those little silk dresses with a mandarin collar and it's racist to Chinese women.

No it's not. It's just appreciating, admiring and loving aspects of other cultures – and celebrating them.

LOOK what's happened to food in this country over the past 20 years. Without the fusion of different cultures we'd all still be having meat-and-two-veg every night followed by tinned fruit. Instead we get to eat food from a different country every night of the week. The thing the Cultural Appropriation mob ignores in all this is intent. No one who borrows things from different cultures – be it food or fashion – intends to insult anyone.

They're just acknowledging things they think are fantastic. And does all this argy-bargy actually achieve anything? Does it increase awareness of bigotry? No! Does it help stop it? No! All it does is divide people and make them boiling mad.

As it did with Gordon Ramsay who, like most of us, thinks the greatest advantage of living in a multicultural society is that we all come together and share the very best of what we have.

HOLLYWOOD star Anne Hathaway says she used to go on such heavy drink binges with her friends that the hangovers lasted five days.

And in Tatler magazine she admitted that if she hadn't been an actress, she'd probably have been "an alcoholic in the gutter".

Well, let's pray to God the big movie roles keep on coming...

Picture: BACKGRID

THERE are lots of different clothing styles – haute couture, contemporary, formal wear. There's street wear, vintage, boho. And there's the latest style called – Making a Total and Utter Balls of It. And you can see which one Michelle Obama opted for.

NADINE Dorries has reported David Lammy to the Standards Commissioner for having breached the MPs' code of conduct.

Good! We can't have elected politicians screaming that people who voted Brexit are Nazis and fascists.

How can it be right that the man who called Anna Soubry a Nazi is arrested? Yet Lammy flings the accusation around with impunity on TV, in newspapers and on social media, daring to compare members of the ERG – who are trying to deliver the biggest democratic vote in our history – to the Nazis, one of the most savage, criminal regimes ever.

And he gets away with it! Methinks Mr Lammy has become addicted to the headlines he's creating. Finally his screechy voice is being heard and he's LOVING every minute.

The only problem is with every unhinged, frothing-at-the-mouth rant, a man who was once respected is now seen as deranged. He's flushed his credibility down the toilet along with every logical thought he ever had.

BODYGUARD star Richard Madden has been named one of the world's most influential people in The Times 100 list. Really? A six pack and a spot of acting makes you a world influencer? I don't know whether to laugh or cry.

SELF-RIGHTEOUS THESPIANS DRIVE US ALL TO ROAD RAGE

IT was reported that Benedict Cumberbatch's first reaction when he drove his flash car into a cyclist on a country lane was to shout: "You were in the middle of the road." We're told it wasn't to ask if retired fisherman Michael Lawrence was OK, or if there was anything he could do about the blood "gushing" from his injured arm. Mr Lawrence says he reacted by slapping him across the face, something I've often dreamed of doing to the arrogant Cumberbatch, most recently when he was playing Hamlet and told the audience they should be donating money to Syrian refugees. If Mr Lawrence's story checks out, who'd blame him if he went for compo, if only to show this self-important prat that having a fancy car and film star status doesn't mean he's too big to say sorry to a bloke he's knocked off his bike.

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Picture: SWNS

Giant Donkey set to be record bray-ker

Little and large... Derrick towers over volunteer Tyler Allen-Day, 12. Below, with other donkeys at the sanctuary

5ft 7in

At just five years old Derrick is just one inch short of setting a world record

By **Joey McCarthy**

A BRITISH animal sanctuary is home to what could become the world's biggest donkey.

Five-year-old Derrick is a staggering 16.3 hands (5ft 7in) tall – and still growing.

The current record is held by a donkey called Romulus, in Texas, but Derrick is just an inch shorter.

The American mammoth jackstock lives at Radcliffe Donkey Sanctuary in Lincolnshire.

Owner Tracy Garton said: "He has always been big – he was big when he was born – but he hasn't finished growing yet.

"They stop growing when they reach seven years old so he still has a lot of time."

Derrick towers over the sanctuary's smallest volunteer, Tyler Allen-Day.

The 12-year-old, who is just 5ft tall, has been helping to look after Derrick and his other four-legged friends – including horses, zeedonks and a zonkey – for the past two years.

Ms Garton, 52, said that despite his size, Derrick is a gentle giant.

"He is very friendly," she said. "He's just like a big dog – he follows you around all the time and wants to be by your side."

When Derrick finally stops growing, the sanctuary will call Guinness World Records.

Romulus is a fellow American mammoth jackstock. He has held the title since 2013.

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Boyfriend's horror as he watched girl's rape on his phone

By **Paul Jeeves**

A TERRIFIED teenage girl was stalked through a city centre then brutally raped as her helpless boyfriend watched live on video through a phone app.

The 19-year-old victim had called him using FaceTime after realising she was being followed.

It meant that although he was left powerless to halt the attack he was able to capture a screenshot image of her attacker stamping on his girlfriend moments before raping her.

The evidence was enough to put Portuguese-born Samuel Fortes behind bars for life this week.

Leeds Crown Court heard how Fortes, 27, followed his victim through the centre of the city in the early hours of Saturday, June 23, last year as she walked home after a night out.

The victim's boyfriend saw the beginning of her 15-minute ordeal before Fortes smashed her mobile phone, cutting off the footage. He dialled 999 to alert the police.

Rapist Samuel Fortes, right, was jailed for life over his attack on a student. He was caught on CCTV following her in Leeds that night

Convictions

Fortes, who had travelled from Sheffield to cruise Leeds's bars, fled, hiding for two hours in a bush before catching a train home.

But he was identified after a single strand of his hair was discovered entangled in the hair of the victim. It revealed his DNA, which was known to police following previous convictions for domestic violence and carrying a knife.

Officers later linked blood-splattered trainers found at his home to the victim. CCTV footage was recovered showing him tailing the student.

He had pleaded guilty to rape and GBH with intent at an earlier appearance and, on Thursday, was sentenced to life with a minimum eight years behind bars.

David Gordon, prosecuting, said Fortes, who has lived in the UK for nine years, stamped on his victim and repeatedly punched her in the face during the brutal attack.

As she pleaded with him to stop he simply smirked.

Mr Gordon said: "He punched her with force using both hands. He hit her in the face more than five times.

"He raped her while she was being assaulted. She was powerless to stop him."

The student suffered a broken eye socket and horrific facial bruising.

She was discovered bloodied and semi-naked by passers-by and told a police officer she thought she was going to die.

But in an emotional victim impact statement the victim, who is now 20, told Fortes: "I pity you".

She added that she "has a lot to look forward to in life and I will not allow a stranger to ruin that for me".

She and her boyfriend were still together, she said, but admitted: "It was difficult for my boyfriend to see the beginning of the attack."

Judge Rodney Jameson QC told the victim her "extraordinary" statement was the most remarkable he "had ever encountered".

Regular exercising cuts risk of dementia

By **Isabel Dobinson**

REGULAR exercise slows brain ageing and reduces dementia risk, a study shows.

Going for a run or doing an exercise class at the gym for two and a half hours a week could cut the age of the brain by more than one year.

Boston University School of Medicine in the US also said that each hour of physical activity on top of that is equivalent to 1.1 years less brain ageing.

Dr Nicole Spartano said: "Every additional hour of light intensity physical activity was associated with higher brain volumes, even among individuals not meeting current physical activity guidelines.

"This data is consistent with the notion that potential benefits of physical activity on brain ageing may accrue at a lower, more achievable level of intensity or volume."

The study is part of the recent guidelines for Americans published last year and relied on data provided by the Framingham Heart Study.

Macca: I pinch myself over Beatles success

By **James Desborough**

MODEST Sir Paul McCartney has admitted that he still has to pinch himself whenever he looks back on his career.

Sir Paul, 76, said he was proud that he and John Lennon always came up with a hit whenever they sat down to write.

The Grammy winner, whose Freshen Up tour hits the US next month, said: "Looking back, me and John writing does amaze me. We wrote something just short of 300 songs.

"Often when I am singing in concert, I think, 'How did I come up with that line?'

"I do think of a 24-year-old kid and I think, 'The kid is good' – but the kid is me. I have to pinch myself and go, 'This is still you'."

Hit duo... Lennon and McCartney

Reflecting on his writing partnership with Lennon, Macca said: "I would go to his house, he would come to mine and every single time we sat down, we came away with a song. The closest to failure was Drive My Car but we pulled it out.

"I don't think you should give it up. That is the secret."

Macca says that even today he enjoys writing and coming up with strong melodies but does not pay attention to music critics.

He said: "You forget how the process goes. You write a song, take it the studio and go, 'I am loving this, it sounds great', then suddenly comes a time when you go, 'Oh my God, I am sitting an exam. I am going to get marked out of 10'.

"I try and stay away from it [reviews]. Even the most glowing reviews have one line I hate or give me a complex for years."

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Joyful June is living life to the full

JUNE Brown is a 92 year old for whom we should all be grateful. The veteran EastEnders actress who's played chainsmoking Dot Cotton for more than three decades is still vigorous enough to turn up in Albert Square whenever she's needed and yet, like Dot, she still smokes (quite a lot) and drinks in real life.

"I'm going to die of something fairly soon, so why not enjoy myself?" June says. "I love red wine and chocolate... and the Guinness helps me keep a bit of weight on." (June has always been cadaverously thin).

"So," she adds, "I don't need to be careful about what I eat or drink."

There's something refreshing about June's acceptance that she'll die soon and might as well have a good time while she waits. Because these days we're all expected to live for ever and be as miserable as sin until the Grim Reaper arrives.

The latest knell of doom involves red meat. An Oxford University scientific report has found that eating red meat just once a day increases the risk of bowel cancer by a fifth.

Even those sticking to the Government's recommended limit of 70 grams a day – equivalent to one-third of an eight-ounce steak, or two rashers of bacon – still had a 20 per cent higher chance of developing colon cancer than those who only ate a pathetic 20 grams of meat a day. As we all live longer due to medical advances, we've become totally obsessed with prolonging our lifespans to the limit.

Various groups in the US already say that living to 150 is perfectly possible as long as you virtually starve yourself. We live in a new era of psychological prohibition, scared witless every week by health gurus who tell us how to live for ever. It would be a joyless immortality, deprived of all the small illicit treats that make us happy. And it's a lie. We can't live for ever.

I'm with Dot Cotton. Face the inevitable and enjoy life as much as you can.

Happy Easter – and I hope your Sunday lamb is scrumptious.

MICHELLE Obama did her best to cheer up Paris after the disastrous Notre Dame inferno by wearing a stunning pair of silk pyjamas to promote her memoir "Becoming" in Paris.

Let's face it, she always manages to look simply fabulous.

What's so inspiring about Michelle and her fashion choices is that she's not the model type and she is not wafer-thin. She looks strong and well-muscled, brimming with health and confidence. Unlike so many women in the public eye she doesn't equate thinness with glamour.

She is imposing, statuesque and, dare I say it, has more regal presence than our two waif-like duchesses.

Richard&Judy

BRITAIN'S BEST-LOVED HUSBAND AND WIFE TEAM REFLECT ON THE WEEK'S EVENTS EVERY SATURDAY IN YOUR DAILY EXPRESS

Pictures: PA; BBC; GETTY

KATE Beckinsale looked terrific in ITV's gripping drama The Widow, but improbably so, I'm afraid. She was meant to be searching for her presumed-dead husband in steamy central Africa but Kate's make-up and hair were perfect. Not even so much as a sweaty smudge or greasy ponytail (which virtually had a part on its own, bouncing freshly-washed, gleaming and subtly streaked). "Surely the director should have had a word," I grumbled asthe credits rolled. Judy pointedat the screen. "Executive producer, Kate Beckinsale." Ah.

What a pointless way to protest

REVER been on a demo? No? You should try it – demos are really good fun, like going to a great big outdoor party. I went on a few in my salad days. I can't even remember what we were demonstrating against but I do recall the convivial atmosphere and the sense of shared daring.

There's nothing like a bit of mild rule-breaking, under the comfort blanket of safety in numbers, to lift the spirits. We mostly lead such well-behaved, obedient lives that a little bit of off-the-shelf anarchy is a tonic for the spirits.

Look at Channel 4 newsreader Jon Snow. He was at Glastonbury a while back and when a spontaneous anti-government demonstration erupted in the happy crowd, he cheerfully joined in, casting professional impartiality to the wind and chanting: "**** the Tories!" along with everyone else. (Snow has never denied this).

I got into trouble again on Good Morning Britain this week but that's only because of the crazy, instantly reactive world of social media that we all live in now.

If I said boo to a goose I'd have animal rights protesters on my case, demanding instant dismissal and public flogging.

This week's Twitterstorm was sparked when I politely suggested to one of the organisers of the eco-warrior protest in London that, quite apart from their perfectly legitimate save-the-planet schtick, they were all having a really good time smashing windows, egging the police on to arrest them, chaining or supergluing themselves to the first available railing and so on.

ECO-UNFRIENDLY: Rush-hour blockade of London sent wrong message

I can't remember her reply, mostly because annoyingly she kept tearing up during the interview, choking back sobs as she warned of imminent planetary extinction (have you noticed how many anti-Brexit campaigners do that too, blub, I mean? It's really irritating, as if they think a display of lachrymose emotion in itself makes a convincing argument. But I digress).

My big sister, of all people, was one of the first on my case. "You don't half talk tosh sometimes," she texted me during the programme, saying: "It's not a little jaunt for them. Having fun?!? Maybe a side effect but this is the most important issue on the planet!"

Yes, global warming and pollution are huge problems for us to solve but I'm sticking to my guns. Most of those protesters were having a wonderful time and much of what they did was bafflingly pointless. Why try to blockade rush-hour underground stations? Surely travelling by Tube is a lot eco-friendlier than driving to work?

In a protest riddled with such bizarre contradictions, my favourite was the one that emerged during a live radio interview my mate Nick Ferrari conducted on his LBC breakfast show, with a woman who'd chained herself to the back axle of a lorry on Waterloo Bridge.

Ferrari clearly smelled a rat and as usual he wasn't long in exposing it. Turned out the truck belonged to the protesters. So, Nick asked with barely-concealed incredulity, our brave eco-warrior had actually manacled herself to her own horrible, polluting vehicle? Um… well, er, yeah. But it was good fun.

JWE'VE escaped to Cornwall for Easter as we always do. Spring here in the west country is extraordinary – wild garlic growing by the roadside, azaleas, bluebells, and daffodils dotting the gardens, rosemary bushes covered in delicate blue flowers.

But there's an extra reason for us to leave town this year. As I wrote last week, we've got the decorators in at home, where chaos reigns. Our intrepid painters, Henry and Peter, finished the dining room just before we ran away to Kernow.

I was thrilled when I saw the results; a lovely pale green wash which floods the room with light. It looked so fresh and modern – until we put the old curtains back up.

Wrong colour, wrong fabric, in fact instant design disaster. And the existing carpet now looks pretty rubbish too. So, John Lewis, here we come – and we're only halfway through!

Secretly though, I'm actually rather enjoying it all. Well to be honest I've become a bit obsessed – an interiors side of me which has never emerged before.

Maybe I'm turning into Kirstie Allsopp.

For gods' sake don't tempt fate and leave us in a jam

RWE may well be an increasingly secular society but the old gods still rule us with a grip of iron. I'm talking about superstition. Some of the most intelligent, rational people I know are slaves to it. Even my wife. "Traffic looks pretty light, doesn't it?" I casually remarked as we barrelled down the M4 to Cornwall for Easter. "Should be there in time for lunch." "You idiot!" she screamed. "Whenever you say that, we get stuck in a traffic jam! Don't you know not to tempt fate?"

"Oh, sure," I snorted. "There's a great metaphysical committee somewhere up there monitoring my every word. I have the power to create a traffic jam any time I like." Annoyingly, not five minutes later we passed flashing signs warning of queues ahead and sure enough spent the next hour in mostly stationary traffic. "See?" Judy said with bitterness laced with a hint of told-you-so smugness. "This is all your fault."

Later, stuck in another tailback, she said: "It's almost as if someone's trying to stop us getting there." "Yeah, right, us and about ten thousand other people," I replied, gesturing at the queue snaking ahead of us into the distance. But we're here safe and sound and the sun's shining. At least the weather gods are smiling. Happy Easter.

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Why Fleabag's the Bond girl to sex up 007

Grandpa was a baronet. Mummy and Daddy are city slickers. But Phoebe Waller-Bridge could take Hollywood's top spy to places he didn't know existed...

MATCH FOR BOND: Phoebe Waller-Bridge

By James Gillespie

IT'S possible that James Bond has finally met his match. Phoebe Waller-Bridge, star and creator of BBC TV comedy Fleabag and writer of the thriller Killing Eve, has been drafted in to help with the script of the latest Bond movie – the fifth and final time in the role for Daniel Craig, pictured right.

If the producers were looking for someone who could match the promiscuity of Bond, then Waller-Bridge's Fleabag character would be spot on – she's a woman who has an attitude to sex that Bond would certainly appreciate.

Rumour has it that Waller-Bridge has introduced a female character to 007's latest outing who resists his charms and is not seduced by Bond. Fleabag is far more likely to have succumbed on the spot.

The film has had a troubled start after director Danny Boyle quit over "artistic differences" and now the 33-year-old star writer has been drafted in to help.

So who is the woman whose edgy skills have made her one of the most in-demand screenwriters? Despite the earthy humour – some would say crudity – of Fleabag, Waller-Bridge actually comes from a very upmarket background, boasting a couple of baronets in her lineage and a Catholic private school education.

Born in Ealing, West London, her grandfather was Sir John Edward Longueville Clerke, 12th Baronet of Hitcham, and on her father's side she is a descendant of Conservative MP The Rev. Sir Egerton Leigh, a 2nd Baronet.

Her father Michael co-founded Tradepoint, the first fully electronic stock market, and her mother Teresa works for the Ironmongers' Company in the City – one of London's "great 12" livery companies that administer charitable trusts.

The couple are divorced. Older sister Isobel is a composer in film and television and younger brother Jasper is a music manager.

Waller-Bridge went to St Augustine's Priory, a Catholic girls' school followed by the independent DLD College in Marylebone, and then graduated from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

She thought that would be enough to give her a career in acting but on leaving Rada in 2006, her belief that "being posh with curly hair equals a Shakespearean career" turned out to be wrong and she struggled to find work.

It wasn't just her. She felt there was a marked lack of good roles for women: "The girls didn't get many decent parts because not that many plays have them," Waller-Bridge said. "I was always crying or pointing at things."

When director Vicky Jones was fired from a play in which Waller-Bridge was performing, she quit as well and the two became firm friends. Drowning their sorrows over a bottle of wine in a pub, the pair set up their own theatre company, DryWhite.

They began with short-format plays often performed in pubs and Fleabag started life as a 10-minute stand-up routine. It was expanded into a one-hour, one-woman show for the 2013 Edinburgh Festival that was described by one critic as a character who "has proudly embraced her inner slut".

"Fleabag came out of the depths of me," Waller-Bridge said, citing the humiliating but hilarious experiences she and friends had experienced being single.

"If we can laugh about those things we can survive."

When she told Olivia Colman, Academy Award-winning star of The Favourite and TV's Broadchurch, that she was going into writing, the actress told her that if there was a suitable role, she would be interested. And so one of the biggest British names in drama became the awkward stepmother to Fleabag. The television show came about after the Edinburgh production transferred to London's Soho Theatre and the controller of BBC Comedy saw it.

The first season of Fleabag was made while she developed the TV thriller Killing Eve, now into its second series with a third already commissioned.

In 2015 she appeared with Colman as junior barrister Abby Thompson in the second series of Broadchurch.

The same year, she wrote and starred in Crashing, a comedy drama following the lives of six twenty-somethings living as property guardians in a disused hospital.

"It was my homage to shows I'd grown up on, like Friends and This Life," she said.

In 2017 she won a Bafta for Fleabag for best female performance in a comedy.

With the lead character's comments to the viewer and wry observations about modern life, it is very different from traditional BBC comedies.

As well as Colman, it attracted some of the biggest names in British acting including Bill Paterson, who plays Fleabag's father. Watched by 750,000 people, its second series was switched to BBC One, where it averaged 2.5million viewers on a Monday night.

In the latest run it also featured Sherlock villain Andrew Scott as a handsome clergyman and Four Weddings and a Funeral star Kristin Scott Thomas.

WALLER-BRIDGE has said that Fleabag is now finished after its poignant final episode and she will not be returning to it.

"We've had a ball," she says, "but it's time to move on."

Fleabag was, she has said, "very personal" but not autobiographical. She married documentary maker Conor Woodman in 2015, who asked her out after watching her act in a play in which she spent most of the performance naked in a bath.

They married in a chateau in France. However, it did not last. They announced their divorce in 2017 and she is now in a relationship with playwright, screenwriter and director Martin McDonagh.

If Fleabag is a character who makes women cheer and men squirm, Waller-Bridge was not frightened by the possible audience reaction – she even showed some early cuts to her family.

And she was thrilled by her brother's reaction.

"I think you're going to scare a lot of men with this show. It's going to freak them out," he told her.

Who knows? She may have the same effect on Bond. Anyone who has seen the very first episode of her comedy will be aware that after a Martini or two Fleabag is prepared to go to places that 007 wouldn't contemplate.

DOING THE DOUBLE OF TV HITS: Fleabag stars, from left, Sian Clifford, Olivia Colman and Phoebe

Right, Phoebe as a barrister in Broadchurch where she met Colman

Pair lose long fight over 40ft trees next door

By **David Meikle**

A COUPLE who claimed their neighbours' 40ft trees blocked the sun from their garden have lost a 10-year battle to get them cut down.

Gary and Patricia Davidson had been locked in a lengthy dispute with next-door neighbour John Laing over his overgrown trees and shrubs.

The local council ordered Mr Laing to reduce the height of a conifer hedge to 12ft, but spared two Norwegian spruce – the tallest trees in the garden – which are more than 50 years old.

The Davidsons said the trees, in Bearsden, East Dunbartonshire, left their garden in darkness.

But Mr Laing said chopping them down would ruin his "little oasis" and negatively affect "25 different types of birds" who regularly visit.

Mr Laing said: "I've been here for 42 years and never had a complaint from anyone else apart from them.

"They don't like trees and that's fine but I'm entitled to have them in my garden and enjoy them.

"We have complied with the council ruling and taken down the smaller hedge to 12ft as instructed.

"There is nothing they can do about the Norwegian spruce but they are entitled to cut it back along the boundary between us."

In their original letter to East Dunbartonshire Council, the Davidsons said the trees were "an oppressive barrier to light".

In a bid to reverse the decision, they contacted the environmental appeals division of the Scottish Government to claim the ruling to spare the trees was "unreasonable".

The couple added: "We fully appreciate Mr and Mrs Laing value privacy, greenery and wildlife, and we do not wish to put our values in front of anyone else's but hope that during this appeal they can be considered in equal measure."

But they were later told they had failed to lodge their appeal within the time limit.

Shadows leave the Davidsons' garden in darkness

The Laings' Norwegian spruces can be seen towering behind the houses

Gun killer shot actor in the head

By **Lucy Christie**

TRAINSPOTTING 2 actor Bradley Welsh was shot in the head as he walked down stairs to his Edinburgh flat, police revealed yesterday.

Detectives believe it was a targeted attack by a man who made off on foot. The suspect is 20 to 30 years old, 5ft 10in to 6ft tall, slim and tanned.

Mr Welsh's partner and young daughter were in the flat at the time.

Det Supt Allan Burton said: "Someone out there will know who committed this crime and I want you to search your conscience and do the right thing."

Former boxer Mr Welsh was involved in Edinburgh charities, including helping young people stay out of crime.

He appeared in the 2017 film as gangland figure Mr Doyle, alongside Ewan McGregor.

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Picture: BACKGRID

Christine sees red over Blue Badge parking

By **Frances Millar**

CHRISTINE McGuinness looked pretty in pink as she arrived at the BBC studios in London yesterday morning.

The wife of comedian Paddy McGuinness dressed in a coral skirt – with matching handbag – for her appearance on BBC Breakfast.

But Christine, 31, showed her true colours by pulling along bright red luggage embossed with the Liverpool Football Club emblem.

On the show, The Real Housewives Of Cheshire star spoke about the importance of disability parking Blue Badges for people with hidden disabilities.

Although Christine and Paddy's twins Leo and Penelope, five, were diagnosed with autism in 2017, she has only been able to get a Blue Badge for her little boy.

"It makes a huge difference, we've only had it for six months but we've got so many hospital appointments it just makes it a lot easier to park," Christine said.

She continued: "Nine out of 10 times I'll be questioned on why I'm parked there.

"I've found myself having to explain that actually my children are autistic and you might not be able to see it, but if I wasn't parked here we'd be in a different situation right now."

Christine, who is a full-time carer to her children, has dedicated herself to raising awareness of autism.

Christine, left, and with husband Paddy, below, is campaigning for autism

Nine out of 10 teachers have been abused by class bully

By **Nina Massey**

MANY teachers are being attacked by pupils at least once a week, according to a shock poll.

Nine out of 10 said they suffered physical or verbal abuse in the last year, about a quarter said pupils were assaulting them at least once a week – and four per cent said it was every day.

The poll of 4,912 staff by the NASUWT union also found 86 per cent of staff had been sworn at and more than two out of five threatened.

Nearly three in 10 have been hit, punched or kicked, and 39 per cent shoved or barged. Some were also spat at, headbutted, and had personal property damaged.

Abuse

One teacher said: "I feel unsafe in my place of work, and I feel like I have had all of my powers to deal with unruly behaviour stripped away."

Another, who has since left teaching, said: "Having taught for almost 40 years I have witnessed a demonstrable and seemingly unstoppable deterioration in pupil behaviour.

"Teachers are, it seems, now expected to tolerate verbal abuse and threats as par for the course and, quite literally, an occupational hazard."

Four out of five respondents said abuse from pupils had affected their morale. One said their school had become a "frightening place" and they tried to use the corridors only at quiet times "as I simply assume I will be stampeded, pushed or sworn at".

Fifty-two per cent of teachers said they were made to feel poor pupil behaviour was their fault, while others cited a culture where verbal and physical abuse was part of the job.

Only 15 per cent felt pupils were dealt with appropriately and six per cent said no action was taken.

One claimed: "I was discouraged from reporting violence against me – this could 'harm my career'."

Another teacher said: "I'm a former rugby player and have been more protected against physical violence and verbal intimidation on the pitch than I feel at work."

NASUWT general secretary Chris Keates said: "No teacher should ever have to go to work with the expectation of being verbally or physically abused, but it is clear from this survey that for too many teachers this is the day-to-day reality."

A Department for Education spokesman said: "Teachers and school staff have a right to be safe while doing their jobs and any form of misconduct, particularly violence towards them, is completely unacceptable.

"We have made great strides in empowering teachers to tackle this issue."

Serious burns from scalding water on the rise

THE number of people seriously burned by scalding water has risen, figures show.

NHS Digital data revealed a rise over three years in numbers of people needing hospital treatment for burns from taps, heating appliances, radiators and pipes.

Last year, hospitals treated 755 people scalded by water from taps, a rise of six per cent on the year before. And 962 people were treated in hospital for contact burns from heating appliances, radiators and pipes – up from 914 in 2016/17 and 840 in 2015/16.

The data, analysed by the Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering, found the elderly and young children were among those most affected.

Industry body chief Kevin Wellman said: "The saddest thing about these incidents is that they are nearly always accidental and can be prevented.

"We need to reduce the risk by raising general awareness of the dangers in our homes and change legislation to enforce the use of protective devices such as thermostatic mixing valves, which blend hot and cold water to a safe temperature."

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One song changed my

The queen of Harry and Meghan's Royal wedding choir on getting a record deal and a nationwide tour

By **Isobel James**

INSTANT HITS: Karen and her Kingdom Choir line up outside London's Albert Hall when their

IT TOOK just one song to change Karen Gibson's life. "When we went in to the chapel we were a choir that not many people had heard of – but when we came out we had to have bodyguards to cross the road," she recalls. Of course, it wasn't just any chapel from which Karen's band of singers emerged.

Nearly a year ago her Kingdom Choir sang an emotional, pitch-perfect rendition of Stand By Me at the wedding of none other than Prince Harry and Meghan Markle at St George's Chapel in Windsor.

Their performance instantly catapulted the group into the spotlight, watched by a global audience of billions who were transfixed by their combination of old-style choral discipline with raw gospel sound – not that Karen and her singers knew it at the time. "We had no idea about how many were watching us sing," she recalls now.

"I knew there was a level of interest in this wedding, but if I had known quite how many people were watching, then I would have been scared half to death. As it was I just concentrated on doing my job. We all did."

But it was a job that proved to be life-changing. In the aftermath of the Royal wedding on May 19 last year the choir have not only released their first album but travelled to Australia to perform at the closing ceremony for the Invictus Games.

They're now undertaking a nationwide tour that will see them perform in the Royal Albert Hall on the first anniversary of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex's wedding.

It's a far cry from Karen's humble roots – she still lives in south London and shops at her local Asda. The difference these days is that it is to widespread recognition.

"I thought after what happened when we left the chapel that there would be a degree of fuss for a little while but a year later people are still approaching me when I am out and about and thanking me for our performance," she says. "That's a daily occurrence and it's a beautiful thing."

Karen's passion for music shines out of her. While not from a musical background, she was encouraged to sing from a young age.

"My mum sent me and my sister to piano and oboe lessons," she says. "I like to think that it was because of our amazing talent but in fact she just wanted something to keep us occupied.

"The reality is, though, that when you're a member of a black Pentecostal church, music is all around you. I started singing with my sister and with my friends and over time that turned into a community choir."

It was a choir that initially had no name, until 1996 when they got the chance to take part in the 30th birthday episode of the BBC's religious show Songs Of Praise.

"The producer I was chatting to asked us what our name was," Karen, 55, recalls. "I said we didn't have one and she laughed and said I'd better come up with one by tomorrow. I went to bed that night and dreamed about the Kingdom Choir."

Since then they have gone from strength to strength, with any number of impressive performances on their CV, from singing at the Queen's Jubilee in 2007 to performing at charity galas in front of impressive statesmen from Nelson Mandela to Desmond Tutu and Bill Clinton. It's an impressive line-up that led Karen to be dubbed Britain's Godmother of Gospel.

Nonetheless, Karen, who spent 11 years working in IT before turning to teaching her real love, music, admits that until the Royal wedding, her choir still had a pretty low profile with the public.

"We hadn't done anything big for a while really – we'd just been doing our thing each week. Then we get this call."

Or The Call, as Karen jokingly refers to it, one which came out of the blue a couple of months before the Sussexes' big day. "I did have an idea something was afoot as a girl who used to be in the choir is good friends with a member of the Prince of Wales's staff and she told me I would receive a phone call from someone at the palace," Karen recalls.

"She said she couldn't tell me who or what it was about, but to expect something."

WHEN a couple of days passed by, Karen was convinced there had been crossed wires, until the phone did indeed ring one weekday morning. "It was a member of the Prince of Wales' team asking us if we would perform at the forthcoming wedding. The first thing I remember saying was, 'You're joking'. It wasn't my finest moment."

It was, of course, far from a joke, and very quickly the choir found themselves in correspondence with the Royal couple, discussing exactly what was required for their big day.

"They were very hands-on," says Karen. "They chose the music and they were very hands-on in the arrangements they wanted

life – and that's gospel

Picture: SAMIR HUSSEIN / WIREIMAGE

UK nationwide tour was announced and, left, in full flow during a performance. Harry and Meghan were so hands-on, the choir had to provide 12 different arrangements of their song

too. They made it clear they wanted the sound to be quite stripped back. At first I wasn't sure but actually they were completely right."

She confides that the lead-up to the wedding was not without its fraught moments, not least as the choir could only communicate with their Royal patrons over email.

"We went back and forth with various instructions and then sending back recordings, and each time we were being told it wasn't right. We weren't really sure what they wanted.

"We sent version after version, and each time we would get a message back saying it wasn't quite right," she recalls. "At first, I was worried it wasn't really working out."

In fact, by the time the choir sent the latest version of their rendition of Stand By Me – version 12, as it turned out – it was too late for the Royal couple to approve it.

"When we arrived at the chapel, we still didn't know if Harry and Meghan had approved the way we were going to sing," says Karen.

"It was a case now of, 'We're here and we've just got to get on with it.' I saw it as we had a job to do and we wanted to get it right."

Still, that slight question mark added an undoubted layer of nervousness to the proceedings, according to choir member Clinton Jordan.

"A wedding is one of those occasions where you really want to get things right for the couple because it's their special day and, in a sense, this was no different," he adds.

Of course, there's no question they did the newlyweds proud with both of their songs – Stand By Me and the gospel hymn This Little Light Of Mine.

"We didn't get a chance to meet the Duke and Duchess as we were at the back of the church but later we got a lovely letter from them thanking us for our contribution to their special day," reveals Karen. "It was a very encouraging, thoughtful letter."

By then, all of those in the Kingdom Choir knew their life was going to change, given that it took them two hours to be shepherded through screaming crowds by bodyguards after they left the chapel.

"I mean, never in my life…," Karen laughs now, almost lost for words. "It was overwhelming.'

So overwhelming, in fact, that in the immediate aftermath she "hid out" in her south London home for two days.

"I didn't leave it during that time. It was a lot to process and I just needed some time for it all to sink in," she says.

LIKEWISE, Clinton. "We've done a lot of weddings in our time but this was the grandest of all," he laughs. "It was absolutely wonderful both as an experience but also because I don't recall a choir like us doing that kind of event in that kind of setting, so for us it felt quite historically significant – a moment in history and that's something to be really proud of.

'It was an absolutely wonderful experience – a significant moment in history to be really proud of'

"At the same time afterwards I needed to go home and trim the hedges in the garden just to normalise myself."

Normal, of course, all being relative. It's been something of a whirlwind for the choir ever since, with an album, a forthcoming nationwide tour to prepare for and plans to travel to America later this year.

It's all tremendously exciting, but for both Karen and Clinton the joy of performance trumps the allure of any big venue.

"The platform feels different when you are doing a big event but the love for singing and the passion we have is the same wherever we are," says Karen.

"Some of my best, most moving singing moments have happened in a classroom with schoolchildren. We all still get excited by singing and the moment we're not is the moment to stop."

It's hard to imagine that will be any day soon.

●*The Kingdom Choir Stand By Me Tour of the UK launches on April 30. Tickets from Cuffeandtaylor.com or ticketmaster.co.uk*

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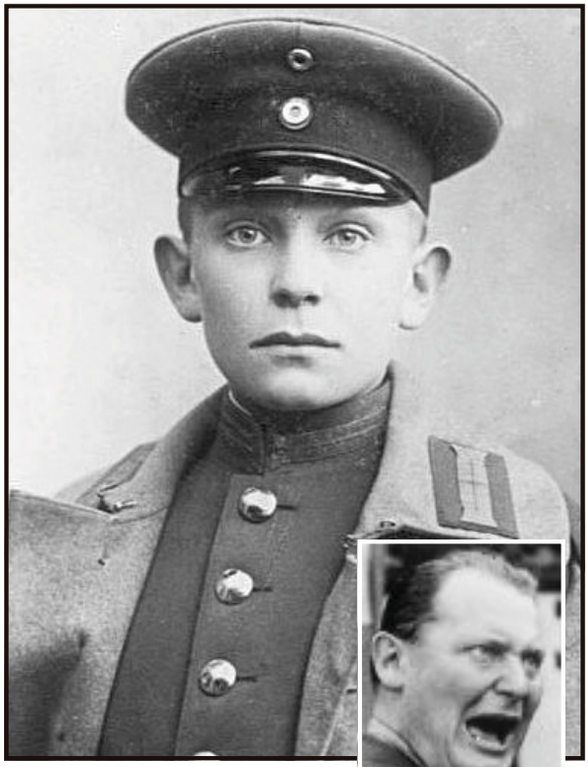
The little Hitler and his infant Nazi henchmen

By **Pesala Bandara**


Hermann Goering as a young military cadet. He went on to head the Luftwaffe

THE baby in this ageing black and white photo, *opposite*, shows no sign of the future that lies ahead of him

Even the later picture of the boy as a serious 10-year-old is unrecognisable as an image of the man he later became... Adolf Hitler.

Childhood pictures of the Nazi dictator and his henchman have been brought together to mark the 130th birthday today of the "Fuhrer". Each is accompanied here by a photo from later life.

Hitler, who was born on April 20, 1899, enjoyed singing in his church choir in Lambach, Austria, as a boy and dreamed of becoming a priest.

His future right-hand man and propaganda chief Joseph Goebbels, shown when he was just twelve years old, was a sickly boy who suffered frequent bouts of ill health and was born with a deformed right foot.

Hitler's most sinister henchman, Heinrich Himmler, pictured as a 10-year-old, was described in his youth as an awkward child with ill health who became easily nervous in social situations.

He went on to become one of the most powerful men in the Third Reich.

Acting on Hitler's behalf,

Joseph Goebbels grew up to be master of propaganda

Studious Heinrich Himmler later led the Nazi Holocaust

Adolf Hitler as a baby and, above, aged 10. He went on to drag the world into war

Himmler set up and controlled the Nazi concentration camps, directing the genocide of six million Jews.

His smart military uniform gives perhaps a clue to the future of Hermann Goering.

A hero pilot to Germans in the First World War, he ran the Luftwaffe with which he tried and failed to destroy the RAF before launching the Blitz on London and other British cities.

Joachim von Ribbentrop, son of a career army officer, cut a dash in London as Germany's ambassador in the late 1930s before returning to Berlin to serve at Hitler's side until the Reich ended in defeat in 1945.

Martin Bormann grew up to be Hitler's private secretary and was with him until the end.

Hitler, Goebbels, Himmler and Goering all committed suicide at the end of the war.

Ribbentrop was hanged for war crimes after his trial at Nuremberg. Bormann tried to flee Berlin but is said to have died in the attempt. The World Jewish Congress wants world's governments to oppose neo-Nazi events planned for today in Bulgaria, France, Ukraine, Italy and Germany, saying they should meet "condemnation and denunciation".

Congress chief executive Robert Singer appealed to Bulgaria's government, saying: "We urge you to strongly denounce this event, as well as to do all in your power to prevent this odious meeting."

Joachim von Ribbentrop, left, was Germany's ambassador to London while Martin Bormann was Hitler's private secretary

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Set your own 30-second challenge: for the very young or arithmetically rusty, you have 30 seconds for the BEGINNER task. For a greater challenge, try BEGINNER and INTERMEDIATE in 30 seconds. True mental gymnasts should try INTERMEDIATE and ADVANCED in 30 seconds together.

Today's answers can be found on page 43

										YOUR ANSWERS
Beginner	25	+38	÷7	+47	REVERSE THE DIGITS	÷5	-5	x6	+19	
Intermediate	224	75% OF THIS	+154	4/7 OF THIS	-63	TAKE THE SQUARE ROOT	+187	5/6 OF THIS	-78	
Advanced	158	+348	6/11 OF THIS	+148	7/8 OF THIS	+74	INCREASE BY 20%	-258	5/12 OF THIS	

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

FRIDAY, APRIL 19
EUROMILLIONS
7 8 32 41 49 5 11
THUNDERBALL
1 10 25 29 38 14

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17
LOTTERY
8 23 28 42 43 51 52
THUNDERBALL
5 13 15 32 34 7

TUESDAY, APRIL 16
EURO LOTTERY
1 8 15 44 49 2 11
THUNDERBALL
2 14 16 22 38 3

THE HEALTH LOTTERY

FRIDAY, APRIL 19
16 24 25 26 32 37

THURSDAY, APRIL 18
12 27 29 43 45 31

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PHONE POLL RESULTS

We asked in our poll on Thursday:
Do we need more police on beat to fight knife crime?

YES: 99%
NO: 10%

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			3	1		2		9
	7	2	9		4			
	1					6		4
7	2			5	6		8	
3			1		2			7
	4		8	3			2	6
2		6					9	
			2		3	1	6	
4		1		8	9			

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MORE PUZZLES – PAGE 42

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

6	1	8	2	9	7	4	3	5
5	9	2	6	3	4	8	1	7
3	7	4	5	1	8	2	9	6
1	4	6	8	2	5	9	7	3
8	2	3	9	7	6	1	5	4
9	5	7	1	4	3	6	2	8
4	3	9	7	6	1	5	8	2
7	8	1	4	5	2	3	6	9
2	6	5	3	8	9	7	4	1

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Maradona: 'I'm the last romantic'

By **Alex Cope**

Maradona gives flowers

DIEGO Maradona has said he is the "last romantic remaining" after claiming he has given out more than 500 roses as his form of "conquering" women.

He made the revelation in an interview for the Mexican football club he coaches, Dorados de Sinaloa.

The Argentinian said: "I'm romantic, I'm the last remaining romantic. I conquered with flowers, I gifted a lot of flowers. Yellow flowers, I managed to give out 500."

Maradona has nine children, five who have been raised as his own and four in Cuba who he recently recognised he had fathered.

Speaking about why he is so affectionate with his players, Maradona said: "They are people, human beings. I made my debut at 15 years old. At 15 you couldn't nutmeg a professional in that era because they would grab you by the neck. I changed that."

The 58-year-old said of his children: "Dieguito Fernando, Diego Jr, Dalma, Giannina, Jana, they are my love when I'm going to sleep, I pray for them every night. When I wake up, I also feel that they are waking me up. They are what matters most to me."

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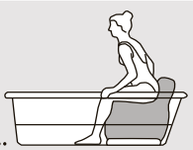

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Holy smoke...trailblazing nuns farm cannabis to cure the sick

Sister Kate, centre, with fellow nuns and some of their cannabis crop

By **Isla Harvey**

A NUN who left her job as a high-flying executive to grow marijuana claims it is able to cure drug addiction and illness.

Sister Kate Meeusen started the Sisters of the Valley in 2011 with just 12 plants – but now it is an international operation with £1million annual sales

Her trailblazing story features in the documentary Breaking Habits, directed by British filmmaker Rob Ryan.

Salves

"I've seen the film so many times I'm sick of it, I didn't like it but everyone else likes it so I'm happy about that," said Sister Kate, 60, who lives in Merced County, California with her community of sisters.

The film explores how Sister Kate and her team have fought against a county sheriff and black market thieves to make and sell cannabidiol (CBD) products such as salves and oils, which they use to cure addiction and treat illnesses.

So far Sister Kate says she has cured eight people of addictions using CBD products. "We have a 100 per cent success rate," she said.

"Admittedly we don't have a huge sample size, we worked with eight people who were addicted to either alcohol, tobacco or meth but they all got better."

The nuns also use CBD to treat everything from epilepsy to cancer.

Sister Kate added: "It's a wonderfully healing plant, gradually the world is starting to open up to the idea of cannabis as medicine, rather than treating it as a dangerous drug."

Mr Ryan said: "It's a story about a woman taking on the local establishment to change the law on cannabis in the healing sense."

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Why Meghan will pick an A for Alice, Arthur or Albert

The civil servant who has a handle on Royal names makes a call on Baby Sussex

By **James Murray**

THE MAN who correctly guessed the name of Kate and William's third child, Prince Louis, is bringing his A game to predictions for Meghan and Harry's firstborn. Nick Stripe says he is confident that if Baby Sussex is a girl she will be called Alice, but if it's a little prince he is torn between Arthur and Albert.

As head of life events at the Office for National Statistics, Nick knows more than most about why people choose certain names for their children.

Each year the ONS publishes a list of the country's most popular names and Nick is always fascinated by the risers and fallers.

It is well known that the Royals' choice of names for newborns normally leads to a wave of copycats, so he is taking a close interest in the imminent birth of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex's baby.

Nick says: "I suspect they will go for a reasonably traditional one. The bookies seem to think a baby girl is on the way, and so my guess is Alice. Riding high across the country, Alice currently occupies 17th place in the girls' chart.

"It was the name of Prince Philip's mother, Princess Alice of Battenberg, and that of his great-grandmother, Princess Alice of the United Kingdom, the third child of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert."

Nick adds: "For a boy, I'm torn between Albert and Arthur.

"Currently in 59th place in the boys' chart, Albert was not strictly on my list of names to watch out for. But Albie, in 57th place, was.

"Sitting pretty in 19th place, Arthur is more popular than it's been since the 1920s. It's one of the middle names of Prince Charles, William and Louis. And Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, was Queen Victoria's seventh child.

"Famously, of course, King Arthur is perhaps the most legendary and mythical British king ever.

"I really can't decide, so don't put more than £1 on it. No one's ever found the Holy Grail by following my tips."

Although many people associate Alice with the 1970s' worldwide Smokie hit, Living Next Door To Alice, the name actually derives from the French name Alis, which in turn was a version of the Germanic name, Adalheidis.

It's rough meaning is "of nobility" and "kind" in German and was popular in France in the 12th century.

Its popularity was further boosted with the publication of Lewis Carroll's novel Alice's Adventures In Wonderland in 1865.

Certainly, Harry and Meghan's daughter would have a fairytale life, wanting for nothing in her Royal wonderland, so comparisons would inevitably be drawn by some between a Royal baby girl and the fictional character.

However, the couple is more likely to be persuaded on the name because of its Royal history.

Princess Alice of Battenberg, the Duke of Edinburgh's mother, was born in the tapestry room of Windsor Castle, Berkshire, in 1885, in the presence of Queen Victoria, her great-granny.

Harry and Meghan were, of course, married at St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle on May 19 last year.

And they first revealed that Meghan was pregnant at Windsor Castle last October at the wedding of Princess Eugenie and Jack Brooksbank.

The fact that they now live at Frogmore Cottage in the grounds of the castle is another sign of their close attachment to the area.

It's not yet known whether the Queen will confer the title Prince or Princess on the newborn, although Royal watchers expect that the honour will be given to the child as he or she will be seventh in line to the throne, one after Harry.

If the baby is a girl and called Alice, there will be hopes she'll have an easier life than Prince Philip's mother.

AS A child, Princess Alice was diagnosed with congenital deafness and grew up in Britain, Germany and around the Mediterranean.

In 1903 she married Prince Andrew of Denmark and Greece and lived in Greece until the country's Royal Family was exiled in 1917.

After the First World War, the Greek monarchy was reinstated and in 1920 Alice and her husband returned to Greece to live on the island of Corfu, where Prince Philip was born.

A soldier in the Greek army, Prince Andrew was accused of treason when Turkey invaded Greece in 1922. King George V came to the rescue by dispatching

MAKING A NAME FOR HIMSELF: Nick Stripe, left, and, from top, Princess Alice of Battenberg, film star Richard Harris playing King Arthur in Camelot and Prince Albert

THE NEW GENERATION OF ROYALS: Prince Harry and Meghan, and right, Prince William and Kate with their children Louis, Charlotte and George

Pictures: WIREIMAGE, GETTY, PA, ALAMY

HMS Calypso to sail the couple, their four daughters and baby Philip, to France, where they relied on handouts to get by.

In 1930 Princess Alice suffered a nervous breakdown but recovered after treatment in Switzerland.

Following the diagnosis she lived separately from her husband, who moved to Monte Carlo.

She later returned to Greece and during the Second World War she was widely praised for helping Jewish people and opposing the Nazi occupation.

In 1967, after the fall of King Constantine II of Greece, she moved again to live at Buckingham Palace at the invitation of Prince Philip and the Queen.

She died there two years later, aged 84.

Bookmakers have recently made Diana the favourite for a girl's name, with odds of 4/1, Victoria next at 9/1 and Alice third on 12/1.

However, as the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge paid tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales, by choosing it as one of their daughter Charlotte's middle names that may be unlikely.

Arthur and James were the 16/1 favourites for boys' names, with Albert placed fourth at 33/1.

The meaning of Arthur is unknown but Celtic interpretations suggest that it could mean "bear king". The most famous Arthur is the central character in Arthurian legend, a fabled 6th-century king who fought off Saxon invaders with his sword Excalibur and his knights of the round table.

As William and Kate have called their third child Prince Louis Arthur Charles, again, Harry and Meghan may choose another name to be different.

Nick Stripe says James has never dropped out of the top 20 of boys' names throughout the past 100 years and predicts that whatever name the Duke and Duchess choose, there will be a surge in popularity. Nick added: "Neither Harry nor Henry (Prince Harry's actual given name) were inside the top 100 when he was born in 1984.

NICK'S FAVOURITE: A is for Alice In Wonderland, if Royal baby is girl

"But Harry hit the top of the charts in 2011 and 2012 and remains in second place today. Henry, currently the 13th most popular baby boys' name, is as popular as it has ever been.

"When Prince George was born in 2013, his name was already the 10th most popular for boys.

"By 2016 it had risen to third place, where it remains. There are approximately 20 per cent more Georges being named today than there were before his birth."

IT'S a similar story for Princess Charlotte, who was born in 2015. At the turn of the millennium, her name was the fifth most popular girls' name, but it had dropped down to 25th place by 2015. Charlotte had an immediate turnaround in fortunes, rising straight back up to 12th place in 2016 and 2017.

Now some 25 per cent more babies are given that name now than there were before her birth.

And Royal watchers expect the naming of Meghan and Harry's baby will rocket it into the A Team of names, whatever letter it begins with.

'Don't put more than £1 on it – no one's found the Holy Grail following my tips'

Roxie's rolling... Christie at Chicago's New York opener and inset, at after-party

Labour accused of hypocrisy over zero-hours deals

By **Sam Lister**

LABOUR was accused of hypocrisy last night after it was revealed councils it runs are still using zero-hours contracts despite the party calling for an outright ban.

Low-paid, low-skilled jobs are being offered by a number of Labour-run authorities without any guarantees of how often recruits will be needed.

Even higher-skilled jobs such as social work are advertised without a set number of hours offered.

The news has led to claims of hypocrisy against Labour, whose leader Jeremy Corbyn has claimed zero-hours contracts are "exploitative" while his party's manifesto set out plans to outlaw them.

Conservative MP Anne-Marie Trevelyan said: "As usual, Labour say one thing and do another. Labour councils are using the same zero hours contracts that Labour have said should be banned.

"We've always recognised these contracts work for some people, but that they must not be abused."

Zero-hours and casual contracts allow employers to hire staff without having to guarantee giving them work.

MP Anne-Marie Trevelyan hit out

TUC analysis of Office for National Statistics records found there are around 780,000 such agreements in place.

Labour first pledged action to crackdown on the use of the contracts in 2013.

In 2017 Mr Corbyn made a "no ifs, no buts" promise that a Labour government would ban them altogether. His party's election manifesto pledged to "ban zero-hours contracts – so that every worker gets a guaranteed number of hours each week".

Prime Minister Theresa May has refused to ban the contracts saying the move would "harm more people than it would help".

Among the jobs recently offered with zero hours by Labour councils are a post as a "casual hall attendant" advertised by Cheshire West and Chester council.

Bury Council is hiring social workers without guaranteeing them a set number of hours.

Darlington Borough Council posted an advert for a tutor on "established zero hours" terms.

A spokesman said: "Successful candidates for this post enjoy the same terms and conditions as fixed hours posts – including sickness pay and holiday pay. The term 'zero hours' refers to the fact that the hours are variable.

"The contract issued for this post was consulted on and agreed with staff and their representatives a few years ago."

Uptown girl Christie gives Broadway the razzle dazzle

By **Frances Millar**

CHRISTIE Brinkley proves she really knows how to give 'em the old razzle dazzle.

Fresh from Thursday's Broadway opening night of musical Chicago, the model and actress poses backstage in her racy black Roxie Hart costume.

She later appeared at the after-party in a bright yellow outfit, complete with PVC knee-high stiletto boots. Four-times married Christie, 65, is currently on a whistle-stop US tour. She plays seductive murderess Roxie, who is jailed after killing her lover when he spurns her.

Christie will follow Chicago's three-week run at the Big Apple's Ambassador Theatre with a two-week engagement scheduled for Los Angeles. The mother-of-three has played blonde bombshell Roxie on Broadway twice before – in 2011 and 2012 – and appeared in London's West End for a limited four-week run.

Set in the 1920s jazz era, Chicago, which includes the classic show numbers All That Jazz and Razzle Dazzle, was turned into a big screen smash hit in 2002, which featured Hollywood star Renee Zellweger as Roxie.

Welsh actress Catherine Zeta-Jones won a best supporting actress Oscar for her role as Velma in the movie.

Christie got her acting break when she starred in the 1983 video for the hit song Uptown Girl by her former husband, singer-songwriter Billy Joel.

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Picture: CATERS

Addicted... for 10 years Jennifer ate a Creme Egg every day

Here's proof I love Creme Eggs perhaps a little tattoo much...

By **Niamh Shackleton**

A SELF-CONFESSED Creme Egg addict has showcased her tattoo of the Cadbury chocolate on her back.

Jennifer Crockill, 30, from Garston in Liverpool, has a lifelong love of the chocolate treat.

The railway engineer said: "I've loved Creme Eggs since I was child; my mum would always go out of her way to get me some knowing that they were my favourite.

"At one point, I'd eat one every day, I did this for 10 years which is about 3,650 in total.

"I have a few tattoos and was looking for some inspiration for a new one when I asked my usual tattoo artist, Sharron, if she'd do a Creme Egg on me. She of course said yes.

"All of my friends know about my tattoo, they're forever taking the mick out of me for it!"

Jennifer admits she is "obsessed" with the Cadbury treat and has every Creme Egg product stocked up in her house – ranging from Creme Egg yoghurts, ice cream, to Easter eggs and mini-egg share bags.

She added: "My husband often jokes that if I had to choose between him and Creme Eggs, that I'd pick them over him!

"At one point, I was eating them so much that I'd often hide when eating them or wait for people to not be around because I was so embarrassed of my obsession for them.

"I've managed to calm it down a bit recently, though, as I'm part of a weight-loss group, so can't have as many as I used to."

Egg-centric... Jennifer proudly shows off her Creme Egg tattoo

Chocaholic dog's lucky egg-scape

By **Barnaby Kellaway**

A GREEDY labradoodle is in the doghouse this Easter after scoffing SEVEN chocolate eggs.

Boseley had to be rushed to the vet after tucking into the sweet treats owner Peter Hind, 64, had hidden in a spare bedroom.

After noticing the door to the room was open, Peter found his pet surrounded by foil and about to help himself to another chocolate egg.

By counting the wrappers on the floor, the retired dentist worked out that Boseley had consumed four full-size Easter eggs and three Creme Eggs bought for a charity raffle.

Character

Knowing that chocolate is toxic to dogs, Peter took his four-year-old pet straight to the vet, where he was given medication to make him vomit.

Peter, who lives near Grimsby, Lincs, said: "Boseley is a real glutton and a big character.

"We accidentally left the spare bedroom door open so he went in and helped himself.

"When I found him he was happily eating. He had just started on his fourth Creme Egg and didn't look remotely guilty.

"He has pinched a small amount of chocolate before but he's never eaten anything on this scale.

"I think he was just disappointed we'd found him."

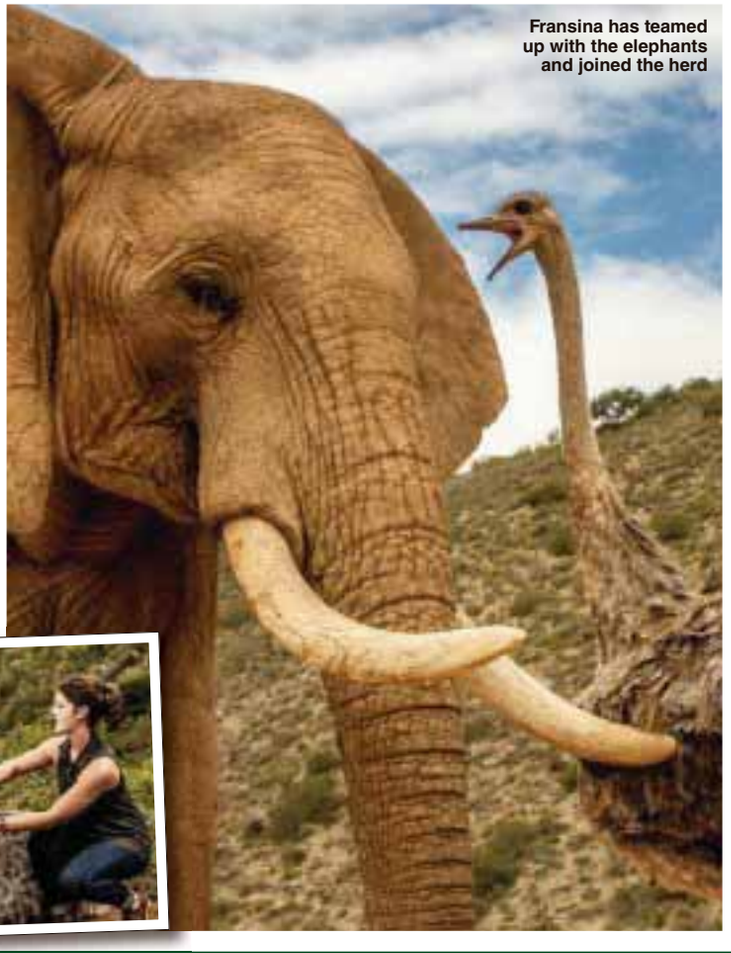
Peter said that within 20 minutes of calling vet Heather Sparks, at Eastfield Veterinary Clinic in North Thoresby, Boseley was receiving treatment. "Luckily he has suffered no ill effects," he said. "From now on, all Easter eggs and chocolate will be hidden in a tall cupboard, well out of reach."

Chocolate contains a chemical called theobromine, which can be toxic to pets – with dark chocolate containing the most.

Ms Sparks warned all pet owners to be extra vigilant over Easter which, after Christmas, is the busiest time of year for chocolate poisoning.

"The safest option is to keep chocolate and sweets locked away, well out of reach of pets. Even the most well-behaved pets can be tempted to steal food so make sure they can't get access to the tops of cookers or kitchen worktops."

Saved... Boseley with owner Peter Hind, vet Heather Sparks and Easter eggs



Fransina has teamed up with the elephants and joined the herd

I wanna walk like you! Ostrich apes elephants

By **Jess Grieveson-Smith**

AN ostrich that thinks it is an elephant has become the pride of the herd – and even walks the same way.

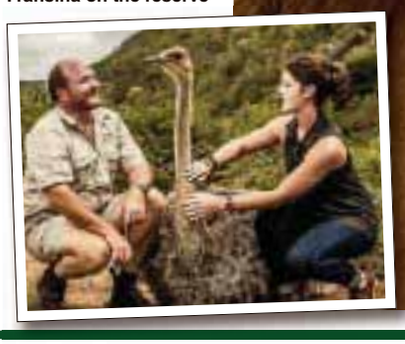
Nine-year-old Fransina has formed the unusual bond at the Indalu Game Reserve in South Africa.

Reserve owner Gerhard Van Rooyen said it joined the elephants after initially latching on to a herd of sheep.

He said: "We initially bought Fransina along with a male to take care of the sheep. The male died about five years ago so we sold the sheep and let Fransina loose around the reserve.

"Fransina roamed free for only a short while, before she decided to build her relationship with the gentle giants."

Gerhard Van Rooyen and a helper with Fransina on the reserve



Ad for GP contains a bitter pill

By **News Reporter**

A DESPERATE doctor who needs a new GP for his country practice has told potential takers: "We're heavily undermanned and the hours stink."

But Dr Dave Wilson got a taste of his own medicine, with no replies to his brutally honest advert.

Dr Wilson, 37, whose practice has just eight GPs looking after 22,500 patients at Pembroke Dock, west Wales, tweeted: "I won't sugarcoat it, at the moment we're heavily undermanned and the hours stink.

"However the patients are genuine, the staff are great, you make a difference and so despite it all, this is why we're still plodding..."

But Dr Wilson, originally from London, said there was plenty to enjoy about working in his surgeries, adding: "It's actually a very nice area to work. You can have a great time here."

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The Saturday briefing

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER by **KAY HARRISON**

Pictures: BBC/PA

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

IS THERE anything you are desperately yearning to know? Are there any pressing factual disputes you would like us to help resolve? This is the page where we shall do our best to answer any questions you throw at us, whatever the subject.

Q In the programme Dad's Army, when they captured the German captain, did Captain Mainwaring say, "Don't tell them your name, Pike" or "Don't tell them your name" and in the next sentence call him Pike? I'm afraid a friend and I disagree on this point.
Ron Tucker, by email

A Captain Mainwaring actually said, "Don't tell him, Pike", so you can shake hands with your friend, knowing you were both wrong.

The famous scene with the U-boat captain captured by fishermen was first aired on October 31, 1973.

It was in the sixth series of Dad's Army, in a classic episode called The Deadly Attachment.

Those four words recently topped a channel Gold poll of favourite one-liners. Second was Tony Hancock on Hancock's Half Hour who, on learning how much blood he had to donate, said. "A pint? Why that's very nearly an armful."

Manuel's response to Basil of, "I know nothing" on Fawlty Towers also made its top 10.

Q When I was younger, I remember watching a TV programme about the war called All Our Yesterdays.

It was always very interesting. Can you tell me anything about it and who presented it?
J O'Neill, by email

A All Our Yesterdays was produced for Granada and ran weekly from 1960-1973 and 1987-1989, covering the lead up to the Second World War and the war itself.

It featured studio commentary, black-and-white footage and newsreel clips shown in cinemas 25 years ago that week. It proved hugely popular.

Wartime cartoons by Osbert Lancaster at the Daily Express were also shown on screen, with amusing captions read by actors. Former Express journalist James Cameron presented from 1960-1961, with Brian Inglis, ex-editor of The Spectator, taking over until 1973.

Canadian actor Bernard Braden (left), known for the ITV consumer show On The Braden Beat, took the reins in the 1980s.

CAPTAIN MARVEL: Arthur Lowe as Captain Mainwaring and Philip Madoc as a U-boat captain in Dad's Army

Q Can you explain why there is no official Easter Day, in the same way that Christmas Day is always December 25?
David Garbutt, by email

A Easter is known as a movable feast, moving from year to year but always falling between March 22 and April 25.

We will be finally cracking open the Easter eggs tomorrow three weeks later than last year.

The reason is linked to the mysteries of the cosmos – and a meeting of bishops back in the 4th century.

This important gathering was called by the Roman Emperor Constantine who wanted to bring some order to Christianity.

Easter, the bishops reasoned, had to be linked to Passover as Jesus was crucified after the Last Supper, held during the Jewish festival. So they decided it should always fall on the first Sunday following the Paschal Passover Moon, which translates as the full moon after the spring equinox.

Over the years, there have been calls to give Easter a fixed date so we all know where we stand and life and holidays can be planned accordingly.

But tying it with the moon, theologians argue, means Easter retains a cosmic importance.

Is there anything you can't answer? Try us! You can ask a question:

- **By email:** put "questions" in the subject line and send your question to kay.harrison@reachplc.com
- **By post:** to Any Questions, c/o James Murray, Daily Express, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5AP

We cannot promise replies to everyone but the best will feature on this page.

forgotten verse

BILL Tolmie from Inverness has written in to ask if we can find a poem he vaguely recalls. He remembers the line "When the icicles hang by the wall and Dick the shepherd blows his nail..." This poem, also called Winter's Song, is taken from the end of Shakespeare's comedy, Love's Labour's Lost. Here is the rest.

WHEN ICICLES HANG BY THE WALL

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

When icicles hang by the wall,
And Dick the shepherd blows his nail,
And Tom bears logs into the hall,
And milk comes frozen home in pail,
When blood is nipp'd, and ways be foul,
Then nightly sings the staring owl:
"Tu-who; Tu-whit, Tu-who" – A merry note,
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.

When all aloud the wind doth blow,
And coughing drowns the parson's saw,
And birds sit brooding in the snow,
And Marian's nose looks red and raw,
When roasted crabs hiss in the bowl,
Then nightly sings the staring owl:
"Tu-who; Tu-whit, Tu-who" – A merry note, While greasy Joan doth keel the pot....

Do you have a half-remembered poem from your childhood you would like to see again? Just send us details of what you can remember and we shall bring as many as possible to our Forgotten Verse corner.

BEACHCOMBER 102 YEARS OLD AND STILL LOYAL TO EVERY SUPERMARKET

POPPING into Waitrose the other morning for a free coffee, I seized some milk to serve as the mandatory purchase entitling me to the drink and headed for the checkout.

I had previously explained this behaviour to my favourite Tesco checkout machine lest she should think me disloyal and I thought she understood.

Naturally she was a little peeved I should be led astray by the offer of a free coffee but seemed to accept that the transaction was purely commercial, so I had entered Waitrose with a clear conscience.

After scanning the milk, I paused to check that I had my wallet. While fumbling in my pocket however I was startled by the machine saying peremptorily: "Please scan an item or press Finish and Pay."

"Please be patient," I said. "I am checking that I have my credit card and Waitrose card." The machine said nothing.

"Also," I added, "I have nothing more to scan but must press Search, then Drinks, then my choice of coffee before I finish and pay." The machine repeated: "Please scan an item or press Finish and Pay." I selected "Cappuccino" and pressed Finish and Pay, when I did not need to be told to put my card into the card reader and follow the instructions as I was fully familiar with the procedure. But the machine told me anyway. Then it advised me to "Take your bags and your receipt".

"What about my shopping?" I asked.

I had not expected a reply so was taken aback when it said: "I assumed your shopping was already in your bag."

"What if I don't have a bag?" I asked. "I'm only buying milk and a coffee. I can hold one in each hand." "Hmm," she said. "You're right. I shall take it up with management and suggest they change my program to say 'Take your receipt, your shopping and whatever else you may be using to transport it.' Thank you for shopping at Tes..., er, Waitrose."

It was that final stumble that gave it away. "It's you, isn't it?" I said. "What are you doing in Waitrose?"

"I'm terribly sorry," she giggled. "I took the morning off from Tesco to spy on you. I was worried you were being disloyal to the Tesco loyalty card. Please forgive me. You know you can place unexpected items in my bagging area whenever you like."

Smiling, I went off to pour myself a coffee.

"I love my new look kitchen. From start to finish I saved so much time, hassle and money!

It really makes me smile..."

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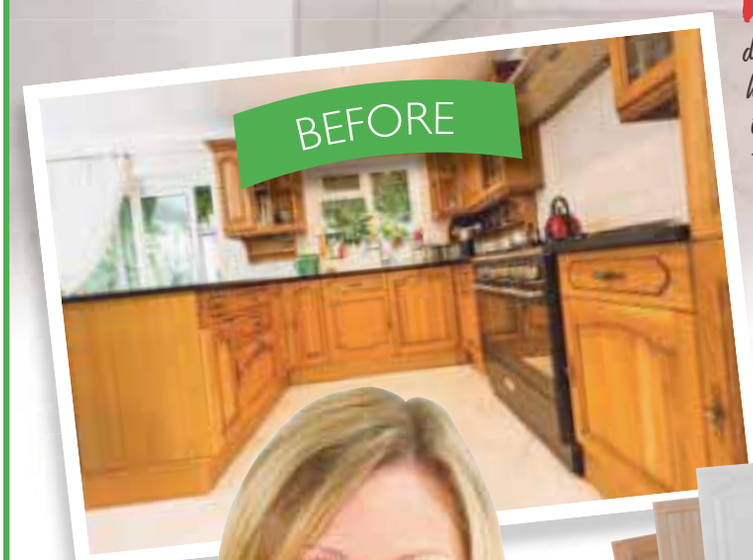

BEFORE

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Stadiums rocked to early hits

Les Reed OBE

Songwriter

BORN JULY 24, 1935 – DIED APRIL 15, 2019, AGED 83

SONGWRITER Les Reed was well known for co-writing Tom Jones hits Delilah and It's Not Unusual, as well as Engelbert Humperdinck's The Last Waltz. He was also a pianist in The John Barry Seven and conducted his own orchestra for more than 10 years.

"We are all so immensely proud of everything Les achieved in his incredible lifetime," his family said in a statement.

"We know that his name will be remembered for what he did for music and that he will always live through his songs and compositions for the rest of time."

Sir Tom Jones said: "So sorry to hear the news of the passing of my friend and colleague Les Reed.

"Les was a gifted songwriter and arranger who was instrumental in penning many a hit, including two important songs for me. Les was a lovely man, a legend in the world of songwriting whose legacy will live through his music."

Reed was also well known to Leeds United fans as the co-writer of Leeds! Leeds! Leeds! – which was originally the B-side to the club's 1972 FA Cup final single. The song became better known as Marching On Together and has been sung by fans ever since.

Reed was born and grew up in Woking, Surrey. He was an accomplished musician by the age of 14, playing the piano, accordion and vibraphone.

He studied at the London College of Music before joining the Willis Reed Group, with whom he toured for four years. Having been called up for National Service, he played piano and clarinet in the Royal East Kent Military Band.

Spandau Ballet's Gary Kemp paid tribute, saying: "A master of British songwriting has left us. Here's to the great Les Reed, a beautiful, gentle man who gave us giants like There's A Kind Of Hush, Delilah and The Last Waltz."

Songwriter Mike Batt said he was "one of the most naturally gifted composer/arrangers I've ever known. There will never be another one like him."

American singer Connie Francis, who recorded the studio album Connie Francis Sings The Songs Of Les Reed in 1969, said: "Les gave new meaning to the word gentleman. He was an outstanding musician and composer. I loved working with this wonderful man."

He was married to June, who predeceased him; the couple had a daughter.

Reed is survived by his daughter Donna and grandsons, Alex and Dom.

MUSICAL GENIUS: Songwriter Les Reed with his wife June

Bibi Andersson

Actress

BORN NOVEMBER 11, 1935 – DIED APRIL 14, 2019, AGED 83

ONE of Sweden's finest actresses, Bibi Andersson will be remembered not only for her on-screen luminous beauty but also for her range of roles.

She first started working with director Ingmar Bergman aged just 16, in 1951, in a soap advert but he spotted her rare talent and became her mentor.

Following a succession of small roles, Bergman gave her a leading role in the 1957 medieval fable The Seventh Seal, in which she played a young mother spared from death.

During the shooting of Wild Strawberries, she and Bergman became lovers, which, she later reflected, affected her feelings of being an independent young woman.

In 1960 she married director Kjell Grede and later that year played a lead role in The Mistress, which won great acclaim in Germany.

She had wanted to show Bergman her full range of talents and surpassed expectations.

Although huge in Europe, she had limited success in the United States.

She was in a western, Duel At Diablo, with James Garner and in 1979 appeared in Quintet delivering a memorable monologue of a dream.

In I Never Promised You a Rose Garden she was a sympathetic psychiatrist and she played the long-suffering wife of Steve McQueen in An Enemy Of The People.

Born on the island of Kungsholmen in Stockholm, Berit Elisabeth Andersson's father was a delivery driver and her mother a social worker. Her first marriage ended in divorce – she had a daughter Jenny – and from 1978 to 1981 she was married to Per Ahlmark, the former deputy prime minister of Sweden.

She is survived by Gabriel Mora Baeza, whom she married in 2004.

TALENT: Bibi Andersson

Malky McCormick

Cartoonist

BORN 1943 – DIED APRIL 15, 2019, AGED 76

DRAWING Biffo The Bear for The Beano allowed Malky McCormick to sharpen his skills after he had left the commercial art world.

He went on to work for Scottish Television as a graphic artist, famously creating the artwork for the STV game show Win, Lose Or Draw.

In the mid-1970s he struck up a close friendship with fellow banjo player Billy Connolly, later devising a cartoon strip for the Sunday Mail newspaper called The Big Yin.

He later contributed to many national newspapers and worked on adverts.

He created a stand-up routine which involved him doing instant sketches. He had been suffering with vascular dementia.

A war hero and an England star

Ivor Broadis

England international Footballer

BORN DECEMBER 18, 1922 – DIED APRIL 12, 2019, AGED 96

DURING a career spanning 18 years from 1942 to 1960, Ivor Broadis represented Carlisle United, Sunderland, Manchester City, Newcastle United and Queen of the South, gaining 14 caps and scoring eight goals for England at international level.

He played at inside forward and after retiring from playing in 1960, he pursued a career as a football journalist.

Aged 96, Broadis was the oldest surviving England international footballer.

Broadis was born on Isle of Dogs, East London. During the Second World War he completed 500 flying hours in Royal Air Force Wellingtons and Lancasters, although he was never on a bombing mission.

During the war he had guested as an amateur for Tottenham Hotspur among other clubs.

It was at Tottenham that someone misread his real name (Ivan) as Ivor and so he became known as Ivor Broadis from then on.

Broadis recalled how he was in Italy when news of the Japanese surrender arrived. "Next day we flew hundreds of troops back to England, some of whom hadn't had leave for five years. I kept passing round notes telling them where we were," he said.

"It was very emotional when we came over the white cliffs of Dover and you could see all the bonfires down below. I have very fond memories of that."

In both Broadis' England games at Hampden Park he played in front of crowds over 130,000.

In his three games against Scotland, Broadis was unbeaten. After a 7-1 defeat by Hungary in 1954, England legend Tom Finney said of Broadis: "I remember when he had taken his boots off after the Budapest match, he warned everyone, 'Don't touch them unless you're wearing gloves, they're red hot'."

PROLIFIC: Ivor Broadis

Compiled By JAMES MURRAY

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NOT SUCH A YOUNG DUDE

Mott The Hoople frontman Ian Hunter on how thrilled he is to be back on the road at the age of 80

By **Nick Dalton**

IT HAS to be one of rock's most unexpected tours: All The Young Dudes are back on the road. Well, not so young these days, but that has not stopped Mott The Hoople launching a live celebration of their album, The Hoople, which soared up the charts a mere 45 years ago.

Band leader Ian Hunter is not far off another significant milestone because on June 3 he will turn 80, putting him ahead of the likes of Mick Jagger, 75, and Paul McCartney, 76. Even Joe Brown, one of our earliest rock 'n' roll stars, is only 77.

Hunter grins. "Seventy-nine is murky," he says, "eighty sounds fresh and clean!"

The tousle-haired rocker, eyes still hidden behind his trademark shades, laughs off any suggestion that the band were part of the Seventies' glam rock scene. "We were too ugly to be glam!"

They have already toured in the US and now are filling venues in Britain, starting last night in Manchester. The band's breakthrough hit came with All The Young Dudes in 1972. It was written by David Bowie and later performed by him and many others.

Mott The Hoople were held in high regard by other musicians. Queen once played support, the only time they opened for another band.

And Hunter still does plenty of shows. In March he led an all-star jam in front of 19,000 people (and a TV audience of millions) at the Rock & Roll Hall Of Fame ceremony in Brooklyn. Invited by fans (and new inductees) Def Leppard, he performed All The Young Dudes backed by the band along with Queen's Brian May and members of The Zombies.

Since then Mott The Hoople have squeezed in a tour of America's east coast. However, despite all this endeavour Hunter remains one who loves peace and quiet at his home in Connecticut with his US wife of 47 years, Trudi.

"I live a quiet life – apart from being on the road," he says. "It's great to live in New York and it's great to live in London and I did both. But you can't move, you can't breathe. I moved out after I was with my youngest son, Jesse, in Manhattan and we saw a guy shoot someone. I tried to cover his face before he saw it.

"That was the moment I thought I'm out of here. I didn't want my kids growing up like that – that was probably 1995."

The working-class lad from Oswestry in Shropshire now lives a very un-rock 'n' roll lifestyle.

"Trudi took me on and she's really responsible for me being here," he says. They share "a nice house with five acres", handy for the business of New York but away from the city pressures. "Time flies," says Hunter nonchalantly about his pending birthday which will usher him into his ninth decade.

He is a workaholic, both with Mott and with his own Rant Band, even now thinking ahead to his birthday party ("I'll be doing four nights at the City Winery in New York with the band").

FAR from a fitness freak, he nevertheless does a little preparatory work. "I feel good but I'm not very good at looking after myself," he says. "You work your way up to it – the voice, the body – for a two-hour show. At my age I do half a day of that boring stuff that no one wants to hear about."

In the Seventies Mott The Hoople were everywhere you looked, a fixture on Top Of The

Picture: GETTY

STAR LINE-UP: Hunter with Brian May and Def Leppard's Joe Elliott at the Rock 'N' Roll Hall Of Fame

Picture: MATT KENT / WIREIMAGE

CHANGING MOTT: From left, Morgan Fisher, Dale 'Buffin' Griffin, Mick Ronson, Ian Hunter, Pete 'Overend' Watts, in 1975

Pops in wild platform shoes and outrageous clothes, glam, sure, but with the raffish insolence of the Rolling Stones or Bruce Springsteen.

"I never thought we were glam, I thought we were flash," says Hunter in the quiet West Midlands twang from his early days that more than half a life in the US can't dampen.

And, indeed, Hunter's roots go far deeper than All The Young Dudes, gifted to them by Bowie when, struggling for success, they were ready to call it a day.

"I was a fan first," says Hunter, whose father was a policeman in Shrewsbury, where they got "free housing, free coal, free electricity".

He reflects: "I worked in factories. I learned how to play bass and joined a guy named Freddie 'Fingers' Lee who had been Screaming Lord Sutch's piano player, kinda like Jerry Lee Lewis.

"That's how I got the bug. We played in Hamburg, all that. Then I played with Billy Fury, Mike Berry, big names. Slowly I just ended up in a band."

He played his way through the Sixties in relative obscurity till he auditioned for the singer's job in a band that had sprung out of the backing group for reggae star Jimmy Cliff …and Mott The Hoople was born.

"I was 29 when I joined Mott. These days you'd have to be 21 to get in a band. Someone said, 'Tell them you're seven years younger. Say you've been in hospital – that doesn't count.' So I took seven years off for a while!"

Loud and wild, they got through four albums that inspired the likes of heavy rockers Def Leppard but also a generation of punks, not least The Clash.

"They say we influenced them. I don't quite know how – maybe it was just that we had the spirit of rock 'n' roll," he ponders. We didn't really have an attitude, we came straight from Chuck Berry, Little Richard, Jerry Lee. There was an excitement about us."

That excitement (which didn't result in sales at first) is captured in Mental Train, a recent 6CD and book set. But after Bowie's patronage, the hits kept coming: Honaloochie Boogie, Roll Away The Stone, The Golden Age Of Rock 'n' Roll.

The current line-up reunites a trio from the band's final album and most successful era – Hunter, keyboard player Morgan Fisher who was in 1960s hitmakers Love Affair, and guitarist Luther Grosvenor, who'd been in folkie band Stealers Wheel as well as rockers Spooky Tooth. Mott The Hoople took on the US in 1974, the first group to play a week-long season on Times Square. "We followed Sammy Davis Junior! We had white limos and they played the Wedding March as we made our way through Manhattan every night."

HITMAKER: David Bowie gave the band All The Young Dudes

HUNTER went on to solo success, documented on the extraordinary 30 CD set Stranded In Reality. He worked with Bowie's former guitarist Mick Ronson, with members of Springsteen's E-Street Band, even touring with Ringo Starr.

Hunter has never tired. His most recent album, Fingers Crossed, with his long-established Rant Band (with a moving tribute, Dandy, to David Bowie) is highly rated – and Hunter bubbles with enthusiasm at the wealth of material he's written for a new record later this year.

His critically acclaimed 1972 book Diary Of A Rock 'N' Roll Star, was republished late last year – with a foreword by another fan and chum, Johnny Depp.

Has he never been tempted by retirement? "That would be fatal, I'd just find myself popping down to Walmart!"

So, is this tour the grand finale for Mott The Hoople? "Well, I've been saying that… but if there was the chance of us playing the west coast of America, and if Japan and Australia came up…"

Meanwhile I ask again how it feels to be singing All The Young Dudes weeks before he turns 80.

Hunter just laughs, and laughs…

● *Mott The Hoople's tour dates on mottthehoople.com*

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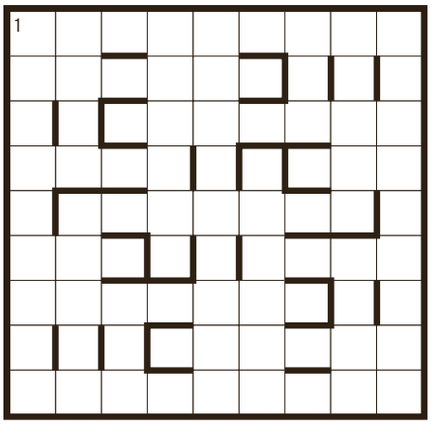
ACROSS

1 An Italian wine (9)
_ Blyton, writer (4)
Hot beverage sachet (3,3)
Stubbornly resolute (7)
Change direction (4)
Chopping tool (3)
One after the other (2,1,3)
Insignificant or minor (5-4)
Invoice (abbr.) (3)
Civilian fighting force (7)
Long angry speeches (7)

DOWN

1 Sets free (9)
Warning (6)
Person to be copied (4,5)
Royal Horse Academy (abbr.) (3)
Maxim (5)
Be seated (3)
Soon (4)
Mr Eastwood, actor and director (5)
School test (4)
Usually (2,7)
Rib lad (anag.) (6)



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LAST SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS 1 Dangerous, 8 Expect, 9 On offer, 10 Oslo, 12 Url, 13 Demotes, 14 Eel, 15 Even, 17 Sundial, 19 Issues, 20 Secateurs. **DOWN** 1 Deforests, 2 Axes, 3 Genome, 4 Economist, 5 Oaf, 6 Users, 7 Surliness, 11 At ease, 13 Deuce, 16 Ewer, 18 NAC.

SP: Spoke - Helpline 0333 202 3390

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A	23	16	17	14	2	5	4	23	■	11	■	■
B												
C	■	22	■	■	18	■	■	25	17	6	22	18	23
D												
E	23	6	13	18	15	12	■	22	■	■	22	■	17
F												
G	■	4	■	■	24	■	22	6	6	22	10	17	15
H												
I	17	5	6	4	13	■	19	■	■	■	18	■	14
J												
K	15	■	■	■	4	10	18	13	■	■	15	■	6
L												
M	17	■	13	4	24	■	24	■	13	17	12	■	18
N													
O	13	■	4	■	■	15	18	14	4	■	■	■	8
P													
Q	14	■	3	■	■	■	23	■	14	17	24	24	1
R													
S	16	17	9	5	17	12	4	■	5	■	■	4	■
T													
U	18	■	18	■	■	22	■	20	9	10	7	5	4
V													
W	14	9	13	8	4	26	■	■	23	■	■	21	■
X													
Y	■	■	4	■	■	15	18	15	4	6	4	4	15
Z													

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 N	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Alphapuzzle® tests logic and word power. Each grid number represents a letter. Every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter or letters – below the main grid – to start. **Solution next Saturday. Difficulty:** 6/10 **Target:** 20 mins **Clue:** Prince found back in Kashmiri meadow.

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Last Saturday's solution:

Across: Number, Zipper, Narrate, Frond, Weir, Qualm, Delta, Born, Choir, Reverse (clue), Matron, Jiggle.
Down: Unknown, Scamp, Embroil, South, Metal, Gearbox, Desultory, Kinfolk, Avoid, Sprog, Courage, Grade, Integer.

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PENTALETTA

T		O
	E	
R		G

Can you find 23 or more words containing only the five letters shown on the left? Each word must include the letter in the centre, in this case e, and must contain at least four letters, but there is no limit on the number of times you can use a letter in any word. Your list should include a nine-letter word that's silky.

Average mark: 23 words • **Good:** 28 words
Excellent: 34 words • **Incredible:** 37 words

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION: dele, deli, delis, dell, dells, diddle, diddled, diddles, diesel, diesels, dill, dillies, eels, elide, elided, elides, ells, else, idle, idled, idles, ills, isle, isles, lees, leis, less, lessee, lessees, lidded, lidless, lids, lied, lies, lilies, lisle, lisles, seels, sell, sells, sessile, sidle, sidled, sidles, sild, sill, sills, sled, sledded, sleds, slid, slide, slides.
The clued word was: SEEDLESS

SUDOKU

		7	3		9	2		
		3		2		4		
1	2			7			3	6
8								9
	5	2				8	1	
3								2
2	3			4			5	7
		1		5		3		
		5	1		7	6		

Fill the grid so that every column, row, and 3x3 square includes all the digits from 1 to 9. **Level:** Moderate **Target:** 24 mins

LAST SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

8	4	5	2	6	3	9	1	7
9	3	6	5	1	7	4	2	8
2	7	1	9	4	8	3	6	5
3	2	4	7	5	9	6	8	1
5	9	8	6	3	1	2	7	4
1	6	7	4	8	2	5	9	3
4	1	3	8	2	6	7	5	9
7	8	2	3	9	5	1	4	6
6	5	9	1	7	4	8	3	2

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FAITH, HOPE AND SUE Lisa Wild

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"Hello!" calls Rupert. "Is anybody there?" No one answers, and the chums begin to think that the house must be empty after all. "Let's try looking upstairs," suggests Rupert. "There's nothing down here except the hall of mirrors…" As they climb the staircase, Willie notices that all the pictures are hanging upside down. "Another joke!" laughs Rupert. But as he speaks, he stumbles on the stairs. "I don't believe it!" he gasps. "We've started to go back down again…"

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The pair climb up the stairs, but then Find that they're going down again!

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The Sunshine Puzzle has been a firm favourite with readers of the Express for many years. All you need to do is find the correct home for the listed words. We have helped you by placing two. Here are the words that go into the grid:

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SCANT
SKIMP
SNARE
SNIPE
TWINE
APPOINT
APPRISE
BELL JAR
DRESSED
EXEGETE
INERTIA
JUMPING
JUSTICE
PURISTS
SESSILE
SPRAYED
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CHARMLESS
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ITALICISE
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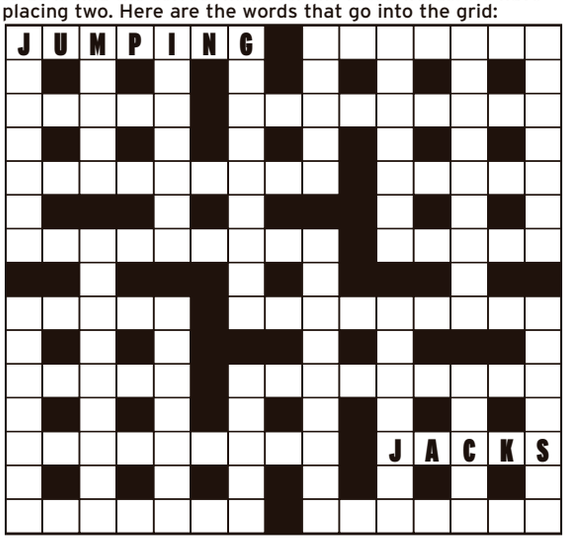
STAIRCASE
TIME-LAPSE



For today's solution call: **0907 181 2584**

**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

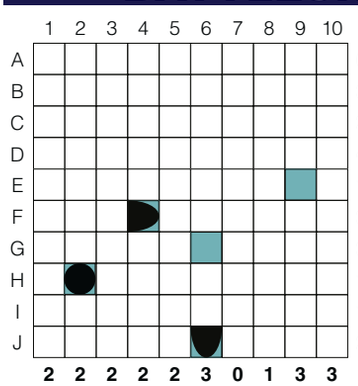
LAST SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS Laudatory, Abyss, Man-at-arms, Eider, Pecan, Megapixel, Manic, Escalator, Free-to-air, Coney, Inoculate, Gaffe, Bated, Skindiver, Celeb, Inverness. **DOWN** Awake, Dramatise, That, Rumpelstiltskin, Blini, Stevedore, Paean, Air-intake, Adoration, Folly, Crepe, Fiefs, Once.

THE DAILY EXPRESS 30-SECOND CHALLENGE

TODAY'S ANSWERS: BEGINNER = 67; INTERMEDIATE = 87; ADVANCED = 115.

BATTLESHIPS



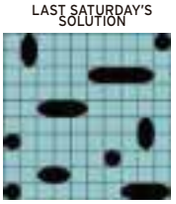
1 x Battleship

2 x Cruiser

3 x Destroyer

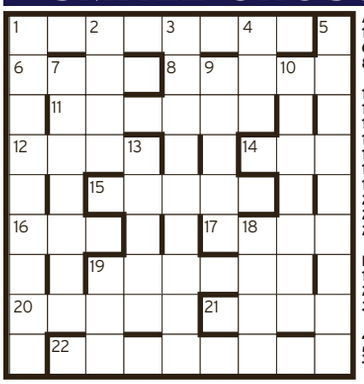
4 x Submarine

LAST SATURDAY'S SOLUTION



FIND where the fleet of ships shown are hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off.

SMALL CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Soak (8)
6 Furniture wood (4)
8 Main artery of the body (5)
11 Open rebellion (6)
12 Greek letter (4)
14 Sleeping place (3)
15 Academy Award (5)
16 Illuminated (3)
17 Walk heavily (4)
19 Difficult question (6)
20 Banquet (5)
21 Nuisance (4)
22 Protect or maintain (8)

DOWN
1 Fit trails (anag.) (9)
2 Drawn tight (4)
3 Wet-weather garments (9)
4 Rugby score (3)
5 Applicant (9)
7 Arousing intense feeling (7)
9 Freely available when needed (2,3)
10 Minor earthquakes (7)
13 Fire remains (5)
18 Look at lasciviously (4)
19 Mineral pitch (3)

For today's solution call: **0907 181 2583**

**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

● **The Express Bookshop stocks a wide selection of puzzle books across all crossword puzzle genres. To obtain our up to date list please visit www.expressbookshop.com, call 01872 562310 or write to Express Bookshop, PO Box 200, Falmouth TR11 4WJ. Please enclose an SAE for return.**

LAST SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS 1 Forecast, 6 Atop, 8 Other, 11 Employ, 12 Oxen, 14 Pen, 15 Poets, 16 Rib, 17 Sail, 19 Entire, 20 Tease, 21 Fist, 22 Graduate.
DOWN 1 Favourite, 2 Rome, 3 Collected, 4 Shy, 5 Translate, 7 Textile, 9 Toots, 10 Enemies, 13 Nouns, 18 Aria, 19 Ear.

TARGET

HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?

In making a word, each letter may be used once only.
Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word. No plurals or verb forms ending in "s".

TODAY'S TARGET
Good 17; **very good** 25; **excellent** 33 (or more).
Solution next Saturday.

LAST SATURDAY'S SOLUTION
aged agent ague augment **AUGMENTED** dang dengue dung edge endgame game gamed gamete gamut gate gated gaud gaunt gean geed gene genet gent geum gnat magnet mange mung mutagen negate negated nudge nutmeg tang tung

Call **0907 181 2586** for today's Target solution

**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. All puzzles use The Chambers Dictionary*

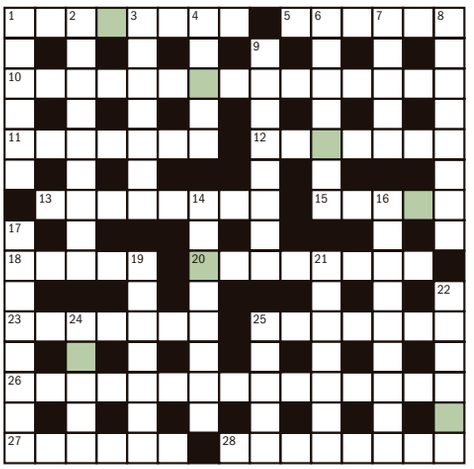
CRUSADER CROSSWORD

WIN £100

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN £100 CASH read down the letters in the highlighted squares to reveal the mystery word

ACROSS
1 Character I nag to return garment (8)
5 Cutback admitted by small company supplying wall coating (6)
10 Organization for ladies, not in suits, we met accidentally (6,9)
11 Drunkard taking time in Brazilian city with rice dish (7)
12 Batting turn for team using hotel in the outskirts of Galashiels (7)
13 Sell film by volunteers involving feud (8)
15 Bird initially damaging gardening implement (5)
18 Bread maker graduate originally kept with hesitation (5)
20 Lie in bed, possibly, not fit to eat (8)
23 At home being cruel (7)
25 One bachelor in California about to show quality (7)
26 Work of doctor with officer before rehearsal (7,8)
27 One who sketches sliding storage compartment? (6)
28 Wait patiently with one in street, drunk (3,5)

DOWN
1 Joker suppressing cry of pain – one lacking courage (6)
2 Strange person initially getting stick, we hear, for cut of beef (4,5)
3 I'd get in somehow when it's lit (7)
4 Spanish friend, a male one, with energy (5)
6 Joined first of tourists, married, going round hotel (7)
7 Container for milk, cold and hot, found with another vessel (5)
8 Supervisor using old poem with hesitation (8)
9 One in Eastern street, friend making approximate calculation (8)
14 Percussion instrument alerting drunk (8)
16 Unusually big band involving 51 improvising (2-7)
17 Shortened commercial about card game (8)
19 Regret concerning code (7)
21 Bad one about it is forbidden (7)
22 Leave dry area (6)
24 Hot woman turning up with hair dye (5)
25 Wow! US soldier's dog (5)



TO ENTER: Call **0904 161 3700** and leave your answer and details, or text **DXCRUS** followed by a space, your answer, name and address details to **84915.** Calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1.50 plus your standard network rate. Lines close at midnight tonight. Or send your grid containing the answer in the shaded squares by posting it to: Crusader Crossword, April 20, PO Box 12578, Sutton Coldfield B73 9BT. Entries must be postmarked by April 22 at the latest. SP: Spoke – 0333 202 3390. For any postal enquiries, call helpline number.

● *The winner will be the first random correct entry drawn from all entry routes after the closing date of April 25. The Editor's decision is final.*

NEED HELP? Call **0904 161 1609** for 5 extra clues!
Calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge.

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

Crusader Crossword Winners

Apr 1: M Gregory, St Lawrence, Jersey; **Apr 2:** S Hancock, Walsall, W Mids; **Apr 3:** B Randall, Isleworth, Middx; **Apr 4:** P Lammie, Irvine, Ayr; **Apr 5:** C Jeffery, Plympton, Devon; **Apr 6:** R Millican, Wetherby, W Yorks; **Apr 7:** N Stewart, Carrickfergus, Co Antrim.
Please allow 30 days for prizes to arrive

LAST SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS 1 Republic 5 Cosset 10 Royal Albert Hall 11 Thinner 12 Emperor 13 Tireless 15 Spurn 18 Annie 20 El dorado 23 Israeli 25 Referee 26 Golden handshake 27 Recite 28 Needless.
DOWN 1 Rarity 2 Physician 3 Balance 4 Idler 6 Octopus 7 Stair 8 Tolerant 9 Released 14 Eyesight 16 Underrate 17 Malinger 19 Element 21 Refused 22 Recess 24 Relic 25 Range. **Prizeword:** Brutish

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THE ALPHABEATER

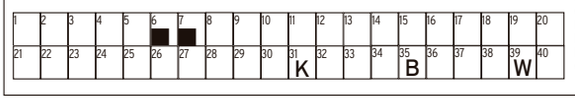
CAN you crack the Alphabeater? It's a tough twist on our popular Alphapuzzle, designed to stretch your mental muscles to the limit. Each grid number below represents a letter or a black square. As in Alphapuzzle, every letter of the alphabet is used. But now you have to complete the grid too! Use the given letters and the given black square below the main grid to start.

To add to the fiendish fun, Alphabeater is 'rotationally symmetrical'. In other words the grid is the same if you turn the page upside down.

So, for example if there is a six-letter word Across which starts in the top left corner, there will be a corresponding six-letter word Across which ends in the bottom right corner square.

Every black square has a symmetrical 'twin' but the 'twin' may not always share the same number. This can help identify other black squares. Of course if the centre square is black it has no corresponding 'twin'. Solution on Monday.

A B	1	15	32	7	29	11	26	33	16	22	18	21	13
C D	16	18	21	8	27	16	1	13	19	9	4	17	11
E F	38	37	9	6	8	32	18	2	16	28	33	13	10
G H	3	21	40	28	22	8	24	28	7	11	18	19	18
I J	32	22	1	38	12	6	18	10	25	21	16	27	16
K L	35	18	26	31	1	9	30	20	7	9	21	38	31
M N	28	30	16	38	26	18	20	12	23	24	33	36	27
O P	16	36	27	24	34	29	14	7	38	27	25	21	16
Q R	16	27	40	21	8	21	22	32	39	6	34	13	14
S T	28	6	18	6	14	25	17	3	18	26	21	15	12
U V	39	18	8	5	22	33	35	14	2	34	11	20	6
W X	17	19	8	34	30	22	36	37	28	12	15	33	20
Y Z	39	16	27	18	22	5	27	17	13	24	38	23	30



Target Time: 34 minutes

Today's full solution
0907 181 2557
Extra letter clues
0907 181 2559

Call for up to six extra letter clues. (Deduct three minutes for each extra letter heard.) Callers will also be given two black square numbers free of any target time penalty.

**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Alternatively, for six Extra Letter clues direct to your mobile, text **DSXBEAT** to **84901.**

Texts cost £1 plus your usual operator rate.

LAST SATURDAY'S SOLUTION
Black squares: 2, 5, 8, 10, 13, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 25, 31, 35, 38.
Across: Wrong, Turning, Fives, Hypertext, Pear, Numb, Cricket, Solo, Yard, Cafeteria, Jazzy, Quietly, Rowdy.
Down: Physic, Raise, Aqua, Recovered, Gush, Yeti, Jelly, Muted, Kiwi, Ajar, Instantly, Onyx, Razed, Tabbed.

Dream Gardens

With Alan Titchmarsh

Pictures: GETTY

PURPLES REIGN: Violets and violas are traditional Easter flowers

Stock up on Easter treats

THINK of Easter and you think of chocolate eggs, a long weekend off work to spend with the family – and some gardening. Easter has been our big traditional gardening weekend since medieval times, when the only holidays peasants had were the big church festivals.

Easter was timed just right for the start of the growing season so, after attending to their spiritual duties, they would rush home to sow their vegetable patch.

The practice continued through Georgian and Victorian times, among farm workers and country cottagers who needed a garden to support their large families.

Today Easter weekend is often the first chance people have to get out into the garden. It only takes a few spring days and suddenly everything needs doing at once.

There's grass to cut and lawn edges to trim, beds and borders need clearing of weeds, the patio will be ready to be gone over with a stiff broom or pressure-washer and containers will need planting with something spring-like.

Primroses and violets are the traditional Easter flowers, though cultivated polyanthus, violas or pots of well-budded spring bulbs are the modern equivalents.

A few hardy souls will get the garden seats out and crank up the barbecue. Now growing your own is fashionable again, the kitchen garden is firmly back at the top of the Easter to-do list.

Once the soil preparation, fertiliser spreading and raking has been done, it's time to get sowing. Most of the hardy veg can be sown now – carrots, parsnips, radishes, lettuces and spring onions, Swiss chard and spinach. I'd delay sowing beetroot for another few weeks since it often bolts if the weather is a tad inclement. If you want to raise your own leeks and brassica plants, prepare a small area as a seedbed. Work in plenty of old compost, rake the soil extra-finely, then sow short rows.

You can happily sow any of the late summer/autumn varieties of cabbage, cauliflower, calabrese and Brussels sprouts but don't sow late varieties of these or sprouting broccoli till May since they aren't cropped till late next winter or the following spring. When seedlings come up, thin them out to an inch or so apart to give them more space, and transplant young plants to their growing positions later.

It's too soon to start frost-tender veg outside, though now's the time to sow indoors. I put two to three seeds of runner beans, sweet corn, outdoor cucumbers and courgettes in pots of seed compost on a warm windowsill indoors; they'll be ready to plant out in six or eight weeks when late frost risk is past.

The one job I'd suggest putting at the top of your list is a trip to the garden centre. Easter weekend is the peak season, when all the "occasional" gardeners do their one big annual garden shop.

So if you need to stock up I'd get down early. It's the way to be sure of a Happy Easter in the garden.

SET OUT YOUR STALL AND RAISE A SMILE

SPARE A THOUGHT: Pelargoniums in attractive pots will sell well

RUN a plant stall for charity at a local event – and everyone's a winner. Even if you don't organise it yourself, any help with plant raising is sure to be very welcome.

So when potting up rooted pelargonium and fuchsia cuttings, tomato plantlets, bedding or vegetable and herb seedlings, or dividing houseplants such as maidenhair ferns, don't throw away your spares – pot them up too and grow them on for a summer sales table.

Popular plants like these are all surefire sellers.

It's also worth scrounging surplus seedlings from gardening friends and taking cuttings of popular plants such as lavender, rosemary and regal pelargoniums. Include as many plants that will be in flower for the event as you can – they are reliable, fast sellers.

Take trouble with display; a few good quality plants grown in proper pots (second-hand are fine if they are clean) will make more money than tatty plants in scruffy old yogurt pots and vending cups.

Take the time to display them well on the day. An attractively decorated stall is a big draw. If you can get your helpers to dress up "in character" – half-moon glasses, tweed jackets and nursery-style aprons – you'll do even better.

Be sure to brief the vendors on the habits, likes and dislikes of the plants for sale, since potential customers like to know "what they'll do" – and it all helps the sales patter.

For more information on gardening and other subjects go to Alan Titchmarsh's website: **www.alantitchmarsh.com**

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Travel

Edited by NIGEL THOMPSON

MOON BASE: Ben with Todd and, below, historic Charleston

The US city has a rich history, chic shopping and a thriving nightlife. **Ben Rankin** drinks it in

Shoot the breeze in Charleston's charming tavern

SMELL it, shoot it and breathe." Friday afternoon in America's oldest liquor store and I'm being given a lesson in the finer points of how to drink moonshine. My "teacher", Todd, wearing a baseball cap and denim dungarees that show off his mahogany tan and extensive tattoos, pours the clear liquid.

"That's 105% proof," he snaps proudly in his Forrest Gump-esque Deep South drawl as he hands me the full shot glass. "No hangovers with that."

Todd explains that to get the full taste you need to "shoot" the drink – while holding your breath.

This could get messy.

"When you breathe out you need to push the heat across the room," he tells me.

Instructions understood, I knock back my first ever moonshine shot and to my surprise it tastes pretty good, while leaving a warm sensation akin to molten lava down the back of my throat.

"Hillbilly to the core!" a wide-eyed Todd says excitedly, which I think was him giving my technique his seal of approval.

It isn't illegal to drink moonshine in The Tavern these days but it would have been when it first opened in 1686.

Back then it was drunk pirates who fell out of "tippling houses" (illegal drinking dens) like this along the waterfront of the Cooper River.

These days it's tourists – and journalists – who are popping in for Todd's pearls of wisdom in the free tastings and buying a bottle or two. We'd stumbled across The Tavern during a fascinating historic walking tour of the "walled city", an area of the first settlement fortified for defence, on our first morning – and it's a must.

TRAVEL IN STYLE: Take a carriage ride through the beguiling city

Squeezing Charleston's colourful past into two hours isn't easy because there are so many incredible tales to tell but our animated guide (Beth from Bulldog Tours) did a fine job.

Founded in 1670 by English settlers, the city's Atlantic Ocean-facing ports enabled it to become one of the wealthiest in the US through the trade of rice and cotton – and the country's main entry point for thousands of slaves from West Africa.

This prosperity continued until the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861 – the first shots were fired at a ship entering Charleston's harbour – which left the city ruined. Huge fires, an

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

OCEAN DRIVE: Escape the city heat by heading to Folly Beach, just south of Charleston

Diving in for

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

earthquake that almost wiped it off the map and 1989's Hurricane Hugo, which caused damage valued at $3billion, also left it crippled.

So to survive all that and be as charming as it is today says a lot about the resilience of the people, who are as open, warm and friendly as you will find anywhere.

Charleston, which feels more European than American, is now booming, with tourism key to the turnaround in its fortunes.

Even British Airways knows this little city (population 120,000) with a big heart is a go-to destination and has launched a nine-hour direct flight from Heathrow.

Once there you'll find it a lovely size for a gentle stroll, with magnificent gardens and tree-lined streets adding to the air of calm.

You might even see dolphins in the harbour if you're lucky and King Street is worth a browse for its excellent shopping.

I VISITED this month – April is said to be the time to be there – when the air is warm on your back, and it wasn't raining. Steamy July and August are to be avoided. The city's architecture is a big draw with houses dating back to the 1700s still standing – often at a tilt, though, because of the sand foundations. I PROMISE it wasn't the moonshine!

The Pink House, said to be the town's oldest tavern, and Rainbow Row – 13 pastel-coloured houses restored in the 1930s and 40s – are big tourist traps, while Tradd Street has been used as a backdrop for 1700s Charleston in Hollywood blockbusters such as The Patriot.

There are quirkier things to take note of too – the many narrow cobbled streets were popular with gentlemen duellers in the 1800s, and carriage stepping stones, built into the road so ladies didn't show their ankles, can still be found.

We jumped on a schooner for an afternoon sailing around the harbour. Pelicans dive-bombed for fish alongside us and dolphins followed our trail as we passed Civil War landmarks while sipping rosé.

Alternatively, head for a rooftop bar and count the number of spires you can see. Charleston was founded on religious freedom and nicknamed The Holy City because it has so many churches.

That night it felt like the city had as many bars as it does churches, with huge numbers of students out for a drink. It gets VERY lively here.

We rode across town to The Commodore club for a few hours of live punk and rap, which was fun if a little unexpected.

There's enough in downtown Charleston to keep you interested for a few days and, when you're ready to venture further afield, some great little trips to make.

If you're here in the summer, escape the humidity by heading for the Magnolia Plantation and Gardens – America's oldest, dating back to 1680 – for a tour of the azalea and camellia groves. Watch out for the 30 alligators that lurk in the nearby marsh waters, though.

If the weather's good, visit the beach at Kiawah Island where surfing and kayaking are popular.

We took a boat into a salt-water inlet and enjoyed dolphin-spotting in front of mansions built by New Yorkers needing some time away.

With big waves and big blue skies on their doorsteps it's easy to see the draw of living here. I took a

THE KNOWLEDGE

British Airways Holidays offers four nights at the four-star Belmond Charleston Place Hotel from £979 per person, travelling between June 1-30. Includes economy return flights from Heathrow and room-only accommodation. British Airways flies twice a week from Heathrow to Charleston from £538 return. See ba.com or call 0344 493 0122. Tourist info: charlestoncvb.com

cruise news

NEW AUDIENCE: Jane McDonald's TV show has driven interest

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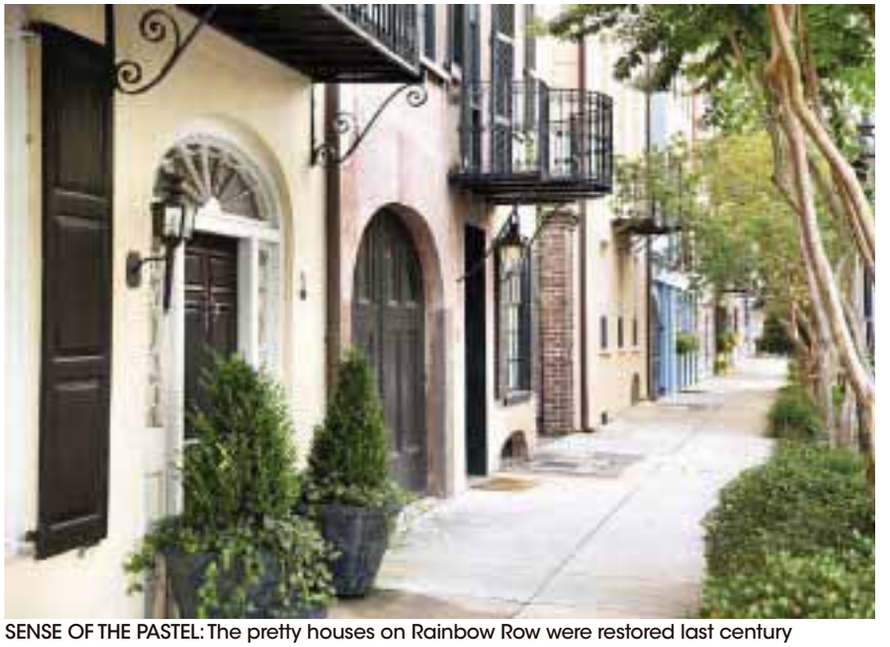
LUSH LANDSCAPE: The historic Antebellum house at Magnolia Plantation and Gardens



SENSE OF THE PASTEL: The pretty houses on Rainbow Row were restored last century

THE locals call it "The Charleston 15" – the weight (in pounds) you'll put on when you visit this food-loving city. But while good ol' southern cooking with its lashings of cream and butter can be bad for the waistline, it's very good for the soul.

Charleston's culinary scene has a fast-growing reputation for its fresh seafood, locally sourced meats and laidback vibe.

And it has a ton of great places to eat and drink at – and not all at top dollar.

In 36 hours here I tried surf and turf at diners and gourmet restaurants and didn't once leave disappointed.

On day one my lunchtime fried chicken at Husk ($17) was the perfect introduction to the Deep South's comfort food classics. And in the evening we were spoilt rotten by famed chef Michelle Weaver who served us a tasting menu of crab cake, sturgeon, venison and lamb at the Charleston Grill at Belmond Charleston Place.

I ate THE best ribs at Rodney Scott's BBQ ($13.99 gets you a pound of them) and a monumentally tasty Raclette Burger at Felix ($16), a Parisian-inspired seafood and steak small plates restaurant and cocktail bar.

That evening we gorged on oysters, clams and lobster at The Darling Oyster Bar.

On Sunday the shrimp and grits (inset) – a South Carolina staple – at The Jasmine Porch at Kiawah Island Golf Resort and Beach was the best I tried ($59 for adults).

Even the nibbles – mini beef Wellingtons, mac 'n' cheese and lots more – at Belmond's Club Level were perfect when we got peckish.

BY NIGEL THOMPSON

Bucket-list cruises are booming as more Brits than ever choose a holiday at sea.

More than two million of us walked up the gangway in 2018 – the first time that landmark has been passed, says industry body Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) in its annual report released this week.

And while Europe is our top choice, we are also opting for more adventurous itineraries, with a surge in bookings for once-in-a-lifetime, long-haul destinations such as South America, the Panama Canal, the Galapagos Islands and Antarctica.

With 2,009,000 of us going on an ocean itinerary last year, that milestone was reached ahead of the predicted 2020 and is up 2% on the previous 12 months.

TV is also a key factor and CLIA's Tony Roberts said the Channel 5 show Cruising with Jane McDonald has "opened up a whole new audience of people who previously never knew what a cruise holiday was about" while ITV's The Cruise was pulling in four million viewers a week.

As for where we go, Europe remains the pick, with the Mediterranean, northern regions such as the Norwegian Fjords and the Baltic taking nearly 70% of the UK market.

But we are also keen to explore, with 2018 bookings to the Galapagos and Antarctica up 44%, Asia and China rising 41% and 29% and more cruises heading to South America and the Panama Canal.

More information on the report at cruiseexperts.org

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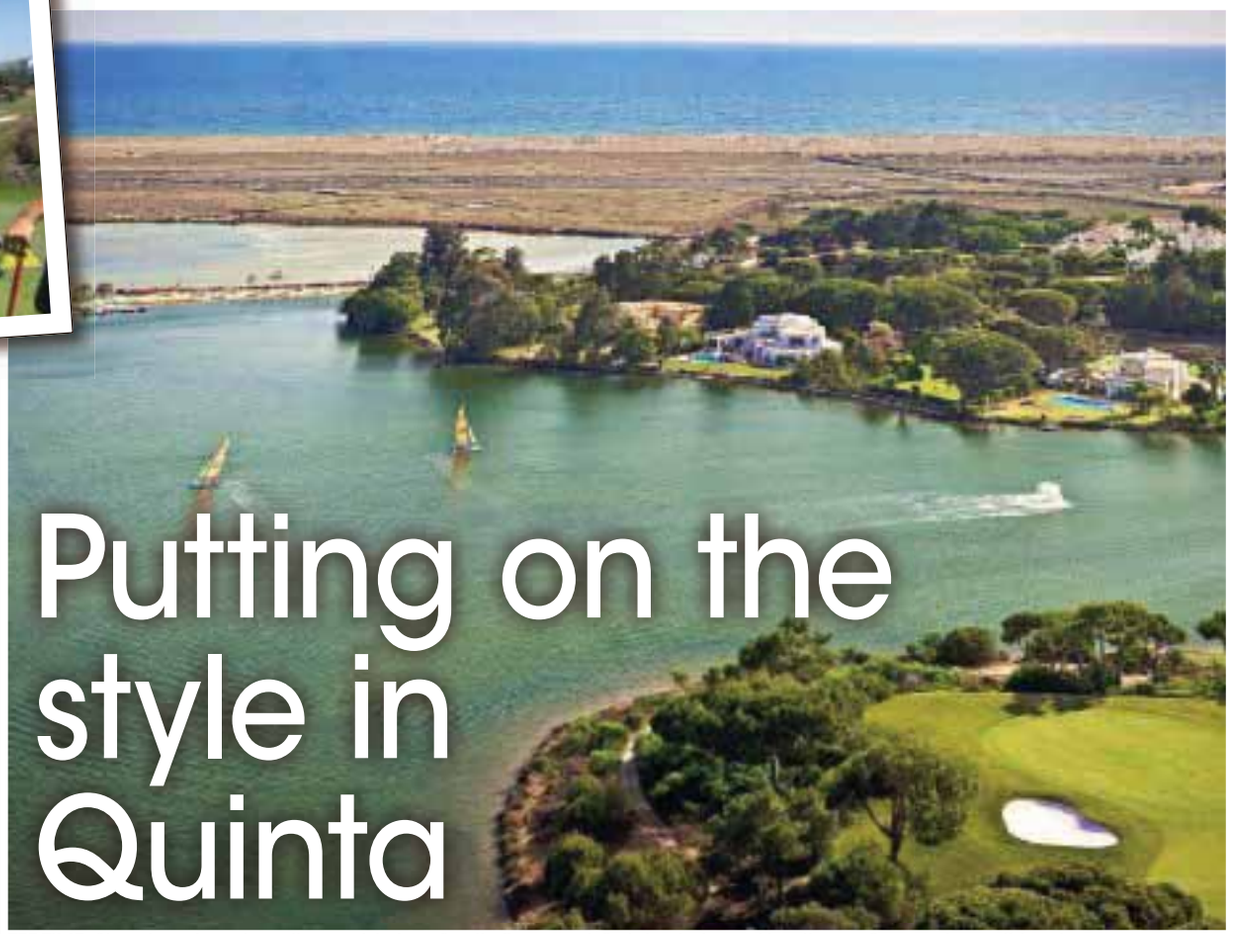

Putting on the style in Quinta

Algarve gem is is a sporting paradise, says **Lloyd Embley**

TEE TIME: Stunning views from the world-class South Course at Quinta do Lago. Lloyd's son George tees off, inset

BRITS HAVE had a long-running romance with the Algarve. The love affair started in the 1960s and has shown little sign of waning since. With its epic beaches, great food, relaxed, welcoming atmosphere and excellent local wine it's not difficult to see why.

Throw in a handful of the best golf courses in mainland Europe along with a host of other sporting facilities and it becomes more than just a summer fling – the Algarve works all year round.

Nowhere is this more true than the jewel in the crown that is Quinta do Lago, which has to be one of the best family holiday destinations I've been lucky enough to visit.

It started life in the early seventies but for the past 20 years has been owned by Irish billionaire Denis O'Brien.

Popular with the rich and famous, there are villas with eye-watering prices dotted all over the resort – but it remains an effortlessly welcoming and warm place.

Finding a destination that works for all the family can be challenging, especially when the kids can't be fobbed off with a bucket, spade and an imaginative engineering challenge.

Buckets and spades do work at Quinta – the beach is fantastic – but there is so much else right on your doorstep.

Rarely have I found somewhere that so easily ticks all the boxes.

There are various types and levels of accommodation here – apartments, townhouses, larger villas, millionaire mansions and a range of hotels.

The latest addition is the four-star Hotel Magnolia, which sits at the northern end of the resort. The Quinta estate bought and renovated the hotel a couple of years ago and it's an inspired addition.

From the moment you see the big neon sign out front, you are drawn into a strong art deco, Miami vibe. It's properly cool.

A tennis court, very well-equipped gym and heated outdoor pool are all on site.

The pool area continues the Florida feel but throws in more than a hint of Ibiza chill – especially when the guest DJs pay a visit.

And the weekly movie night is a great idea. Pull up a lounger by the pool, wait for the sun to go down and enjoy as a blockbuster is projected on to the huge white wall at one end of the pool. You can order food and drinks to be brought to your table too.

There are 74 rooms and seven cottages, ideal for those looking for more privacy.

The extensive facilities of the rest of the resort are all within a few minute's drive – or cycle on one of the hotel bikes. Golf plays a huge part and there are three world-class courses – the well-established South and North and Laranjal, which opened in 2009. I played, and really enjoyed all three but the South is definitely special.

There is an excellent driving range and the only Paul McGinley golf academy in the world, which adds some Ryder Cup kudos.

Young golfers have their own little driving range next to the main facility – handily right next to cafe Koko, a good breakfast and lunch spot.

Golfers aren't the only people catered for here though. The Campus centre is a new sporting hub with serious credentials. The aim was to create a facility which works for professionals and amateurs alike.

The tennis facilities and coaching are particularly impressive but the surprise treat for me was discovering padel tennis (special thanks to coach Manuel). Padel is hugely popular in Spain and Portugal and it would not surprise me at all if it started to take off here – courts are already popping up. It's best described as short tennis (with stringless paddles) combined with a bit of squash (the court has glass walls all the way around).

Played in a doubles format, it is a great game and much easier than tennis or squash for people of varying abilities to play. If you have the chance, give it a go.

CYCLISTS, swimmers and gym lovers are extremely well looked after, too, and there is also a world-class football/rugby pitch which has already been used as a training facility by some of the biggest teams in world sport.

Families with younger children will love the lake area. There is a range of kayaks, paddle boards and pedalos along with a water assault course.

Food always plays a part in my holidays and Quinta has a huge array of restaurants. At the lake there is the excellent Casa do Lago, where the fish was superb.

A short walk along the lakeside and you'll find The Shack, a great family-friendly bar and grill.

Across the wooden bridge that leads to the beach you will find Gigi's – and I'd thoroughly recommend you make the walk. The setting, seafood and service were all sensational.

We met up with relatives who live in Spain and chose Gigi's for our reunion lunch. It wasn't our only visit.

Moving from seafood to steak and you will find very few places anywhere to compete with Bovino – and make sure you allow time for a pre-dinner drink on the roof terrace.

The food and wine are first class and it's one of those places that feels like a real treat.

There's no doubt that Quinta do Lago is a millionaire's playground – but you don't have to be a millionaire to enjoy a fantastic family holiday here.

If I were ever to win the lottery, I would certainly be checking out one of the amazing villas lining the golf courses.

But back in reality, I'd very happily book into the Magnolia again for a week or two and enjoy a very special holiday.

MOVIE NIGHT: Relax on a lounger and watch great films around the pool at the Hotel Magnolia in Quinta do Lago, left, and enjoy fat steaks at Bovino

THE KNOWLEDGE

Quinta do Lago golf, sports and family resort in the Algarve offers three, five and seven-night golf and spa packages with prices starting from €140 per night in the on-site Magnolia Hotel. themagnoliahotelqdl.com quintadolago.com

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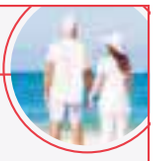

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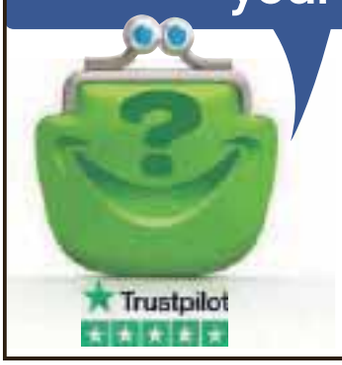

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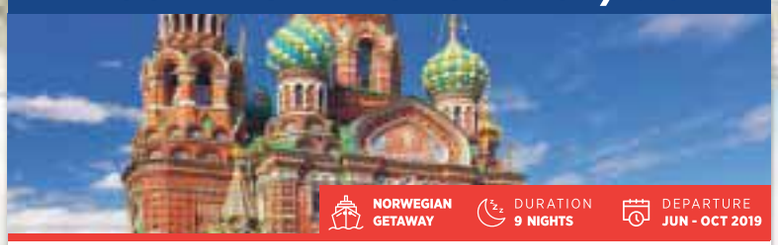

NORWEGIAN GETAWAY | DURATION 9 NIGHTS | DEPARTURE JUN - OCT 2019

01. Fly UK to Copenhagen, on arrival transfer to port and join Norwegian Getaway
02. Warnemünde (Berlin), Germany
03. Leisure at sea
04. Tallinn, Estonia
05. St. Petersburg, Russia (Overnight in port)
06. St. Petersburg, Russia
07. Helsinki, Finland
08. Nynashamn (Stockholm), Sweden
09. Leisure at sea
10. Copenhagen, disembark and transfer to airport for your flight back to the UK

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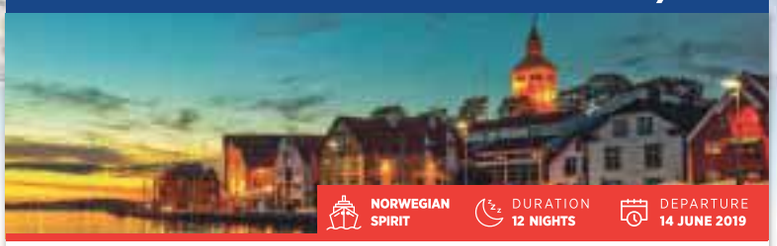
2019 Sailing dates available: June 7, 16, **25** | July 4, 13, 22, **31** | Aug 9, **18**, 27 | Sep 5, 14, **23** | Oct 4, **11** Prices are based on dates in bold.

DEPARTS	INTERIOR	OUTSIDE	BALCONY
JUN from	£1,149PP	£1,569PP	£1,579PP
JUL from	£1,219PP	£1,399PP	£1,519PP
AUG from	£1,149PP	£1,399PP	£1,479PP

DEPARTS	INTERIOR	OUTSIDE	BALCONY
SEP from	£1,189PP	£1,479PP	£1,589PP
OCT from	£1,049PP	£1,399PP	£1,449PP

LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN • 12 NIGHTS from only £969PP



NORWEGIAN SPIRIT | DURATION 12 NIGHTS | DEPARTURE 14 JUNE 2019

01. Southampton, embark Norwegian Spirit
02. Leisure at sea
03. Stavanger, Norway
04. Trondheim, Norway
05. Scenic Cruising: Svartisen Glacier
06. Hammerfest, Norway
07. Honningsvag, Norway
08. Leisure at sea
09. Geiranger, Norway
10. Flam, Norway
11. Haugesund, Norway
12. Leisure at sea
13. Disembark in Southampton

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INTERIOR	OUTSIDE	BALCONY
£969PP	£1,329PP	£1,579PP

MED WINTER SUN from only £699PP

NORWEGIAN SPIRIT | DURATION 7 NIGHTS | DEPARTURE 15 DEC 2019

01. Fly UK to Rome, on arrival transfer to Civitavecchia Port and join Norwegian Spirit
02. Transit Messina Strait
03. Dubrovnik, Croatia
04. Kotor, Montenegro
05. Messina, Sicily
06. Naples, Italy
07. Florence (La Spezia), Italy
08. Civitavecchia, disembark and transfer to airport for your flight back to London

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INTERIOR	OUTSIDE	BALCONY
£699PP	£819PP	£1,029PP

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NORWEGIAN JADE | DURATION 13 NIGHTS | DEPARTURE 14 FEB 2020

CHOOSE 2 FROM 5 FOR ONLY £149PP

01. Fly UK to Hong Kong with Emirates Airline. (Overnight)
02. On arrival, transfer to first class hotel for 2 night stay
03. Hong Kong at your Leisure
04. Transfer to port, embark Norwegian Jade
05. Leisure at Sea
06. Nha Trang, Vietnam
07. Phu My (Ho Chi Minh City), Vietnam
08. Leisure at Sea
09. Laem Chabang, (Bangkok), Thailand
10. Ko Samui, Thailand
11. Leisure at Sea
12. Singapore (Overnight in port)
13. Singapore, disembark. Transfer to airport for return flight to UK with Emirates Airline. (Overnight)

INTERIOR	OUTSIDE	BALCONY	MINI SUITE
£1,659PP	£1,879PP	£2,399P	£2,779P

MALAYSIAN HIGHLIGHTS from only £1369PP

NORWEGIAN JADE | DURATION 12 NIGHTS | DEPARTURE 02 JAN 2020

CHOOSE 2 FROM 5 FOR ONLY £149PP

01. Fly UK to Singapore (Overnight)
02. On arrival, transfer to first class hotel for 2 night stay, B&B
03. Singapore at your Leisure
04. Transfer to port, embark Norwegian Jade
05. Leisure at Sea
06. Phuket, Thailand (Overnight in port)
07. Phuket, Thailand
08. Langkawi, Malaysia
09. Penang, Malaysia
10. Port Klang (Kuala Lumpur), Malaysia
11. Leisure at Sea
12. Singapore, disembark. Transfer to airport for your return flight to UK (Overnight).

INTERIOR	OUTSIDE	BALCONY
£1,369PP	£1,539PP	£1,799P

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Oct	fr.	£349	£439
Nov	fr.	£319	£389
Dec	fr.	**£249**	£329

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Llandudno — Chatsworth House Hotel

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Apr 29, May 6, 13, 20, Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, Nov 4, 11, 18, 25, Dec 2, 9, 16	£104.95

Mondays	4 NTS from
Apr 29, May 6, 13, 20, 27, Jun 3, 10, 17, 24, Jul 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Aug 5, 12, 19, 26, Sep 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	£134.95

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Carrington, Majestic or Heathlands Hotel, Bournemouth

Your holiday includes:

- Coach transfers between your hotel & Poole
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- Enjoy 4 hours ashore in pretty St Peter Port

Fridays	3 NTS from
May 24, Jun 7, 28, Jul 12, 26, Aug 9, 23	£139.95

Mondays	4 NTS from
May 13, 27, Jun 10, 24, Jul 8, 22, Aug 5, 26	£199.95

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Free MAGNESIUM for the over 50s

Leading Cambridge company to offer scientifically proven energy range supplement for free.

IMAGE CREDIT: FutureYou Cambridge MAGNESIUM+

FUTUREYOU, a Cambridge nutraceutical company known for its well researched nutritional supplements, has announced that it is giving away packs of its flagship energy product to new customers.

The offer is aimed at helping the over 50s, who commonly suffer with low energy and fatigue, but is open to people of all ages. It comes after the Cambridge firm received a flurry of positive reviews for its best selling energy product on Trustpilot, the independent online review platform.

'I am a woman of 74, and a few months ago I realised that I had no energy at all. I put it down to age, but it was really impacting on my life in so many ways. My husband read an ad for Magnesium+ and I thought I would give it a try. Within two weeks I was a different woman, with energy to spare,' says Annie.

"Within two weeks I was a different woman, with energy to spare"

Adam Cleevely, FutureYou's CEO, explains the thinking behind the offer: 'After receiving so much positive feedback on Magnesium+, our team is confident that people will love it within their first pack.

'So we've decided to offer that first pack for free, because our team is excited to spread the word about Magnesium+ with as many people as possible – as excited as our customers, who have been leaving us such amazing reviews.

How to claim your FREE box

To get hold of your free pack, visit **www.FutureYouHealth.com/EXG95** or call on **0800 808 5740** quoting the code **EXG95.**

You only need pay £2.95 p&p and your free box worth over £10 will be shipped out via Royal Mail 1st Class. After your trial pack, your subsequent packs will cost £10.40 (inc p&p) and be delivered every 28 days.

If you don't wish to continue after your trial, simply call 0800 808 5740 for free or visit www.FutureYouHealth.com to cancel your subscription.

FutureYou

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Discount valid until 31 May 2019. New customers only. One free trial per household. Your first box is free (£2.95 postage and packaging) and you will be enrolled into a flexible subscription (£10.40 every 28 days). We regret but we cannot take payment for this offer by cheque. You can stop deliveries at any time without obligation. See website for more information on our subscription service. Magnesium+ from FutureYou should be consumed as part of a healthy and balanced diet and lifestyle. If you are taking any prescribed medication or have any medical conditions always consult your doctor or pharmacist before taking vitamins or supplements. Trial pack promotion can not be used in conjunction with any other promotions.

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"One of the simplest ways to make savings in your home without changing your routine..."
JUSTIN HARPER, DAILY MAIL

JETSTORM, from Ecocamel's unique range of advanced showerheads, offers a full flow spa-like shower by using the latest water- and energy-saving technology.

Going green without compromise is the Ecocamel mantra, and our 'new generation' showerheads deliver that promise. The Jetstorm offers a refreshing spa-like shower, saving water, energy and money – a truly innovative eco-device.

A Great British Invention

Ecocamel showerheads deliver real cost and energy savings. The Jetstorm is a marvellous piece of design. Robin Whitfield, our British designer, combined his knowledge of carburettors with existing injet technology to create the Jetstorm – a patented system of air intakes that make it one of the most efficient showerheads ever produced.

Ecocamel Saves Energy

When you use less water, you need less energy to heat it, resulting in real energy bills savings. With energy prices on the rise every penny counts, and users are saving hundreds and thousands of litres of water each year.

Power Shower Experience

One of the questions regularly put to us is: "If I am saving all that water, isn't the shower experience severely diminished?" No! In fact, this is one of our greatest triumphs – you enjoy a powerful, refreshing spa-like shower experience. And you don't have to take our word for it. An article in The Sunday Telegraph said this about our Jetstorm showerhead: "(My husband) grudgingly admits the new model works better than the conventional showerhead so it's staying on the shower – much to my and the household purse's delight!"

Save Money, Save Water & Save Energy

The equation is simple: Less water used=less energy to heat=less cost. The Jetstorm showerhead is most efficient at saving costs in homes with: a water meter, gravity fed systems of 0.5 bar and above, mains pressure systems and pumped systems. Recently featured on BBCs The Apprentice, Ecocamel was well received by a leading UK retailer. As one contestant said: "This is a no brainer! It saves water, energy, money and gives a good shower."

A Great Business Decision

"I chose Ecocamel for two reasons. Firstly the savings I made: Ecocamel showerheads will save me over £4,000 on energy and water costs per hotel annually. Secondly, the showerhead gave a very refreshing experience, which is very important to our guests." Mr. T G, General Manager, The Days Inn Hotel, Hyde Park.

The Verdict

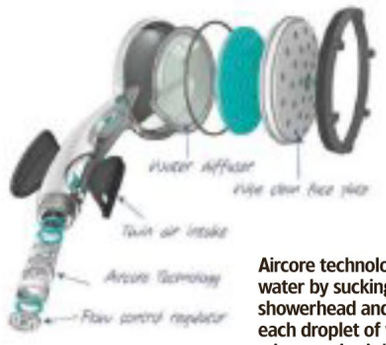
Following a review of five different shower heads, examining both flow rate and overall quality of the experience, GOOD HOUSEKEEPING INSTITUTE concluded "…our favourite is the Ecocamel Jetstorm, it felt powerful and invigorating."

After a three month trial, Alfa Leisureplex installed Ecocamel showerheads in all 1,750 hotel rooms across their 20 hotels. "Adding to the commercial benefit is the showering experience… I highly recommend all hoteliers invest similarly," said Karen Sawbridge, Operations Director.

ECOCAMEL'S INGENIOUS JETSTORM SHOWERHEAD

Revolutionary Aircore Technology boosts performance with 'air injection'

THE SCIENCE BEHIND AIRCORE TECHNOLOGY



Aircore technology saves water by sucking air into the showerhead and injecting each droplet of water with microscopic air bubbles

BUY 1 GET 1 FREE

FANTASTIC Easter Giveaway

Get one Jetstorm at the reduced price of £29.95 and get a second

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UNIVERSAL FITTING

INDEPENDENT TESTING at accredited UK testing house verified Jetstorm's average water savings of 40% compared to standard shower heads. This translates to a saving of around 56,000 litres of water a year, based on a family of four taking a daily seven-minute shower.

Boost the power of your shower with Ecocamel Jetstorm and start saving money, water and energy instantly!

ORDER TODAY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS BUY 1 GET 1 FREE OFFER!

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~ 30 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE ~
Try the Jetstorm at home for 30 days. If you are dissatisfied for any reason, return to us for a full refund.

THE JETSTORM BENEFITS

- **SAVE MONEY** Fitting a Jetstorm helps cut your water and energy use, saving you money on utility bills
- **Amazing 'Power Shower' Experience** Enjoy a powerful and refreshing spa-like shower
- **Fast and easy universal fitting ... no tools required** Simply replaces your existing showerhead in seconds – it takes under a minute with no tools and no plumbing required.
- **Eco-Friendly** Lower your home's carbon footprint
- **The Jetstorm Guarantee** Try at home for 30 days. If you are anything less than delighted, simply return to us for a full refund.

Yes! I want to start saving water, energy and money instantly

TICK HERE	ALL ECOCAMEL JETSTORM SHOWERHEADS HERE ARE SUITABLE FOR ALL SHOWER SYSTEMS	PRICE	SUB TOTAL
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	TOTAL AMOUNT £		

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If you are struggling with the stairs you are not alone. Many of our customers soldier on for long periods of time, worrying about having to move home before deciding to give us a call.

But admitting you need help with the stairs is often the hardest step. So when it's time for a stairlift, here's why you should give Stannah a call.

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We're a British, family-owned business with over 150 years of lift expertise. We know how to keep you independent and safe at home, will put you first and promise to always be true to our word.

We'll make your life easier

We can arrange for an advisor to visit your home who will survey your staircase, advise you on the best stairlift for your needs and leave you with a fixed price quotation, with no hidden extras.

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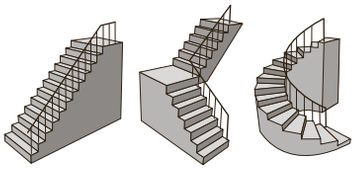

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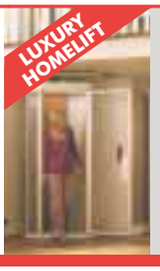

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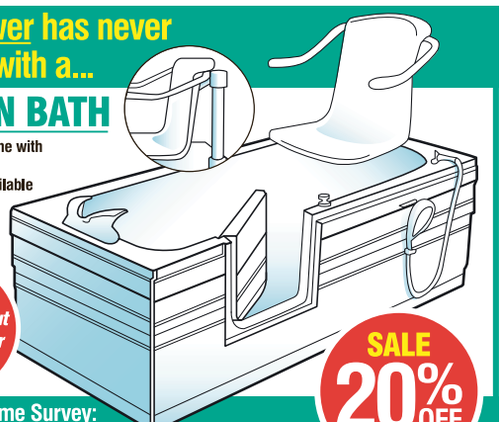

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TURMERIC & HONEY HEALTH UPDATE - BY SIMON PORTER

FAST ACTING DOUBLE STRENGTH FORMULATION

"Tiredness, fatigue and ill health seemed to be getting worse on a daily basis. Until I found Turmeric and Honey"

Linda has suffered from ill health for the past few years. She simply thought it was because she was getting older and the aches, pains, sore joints and lack of energy would be something she simply had to live with and cope with daily. Linda tells us how Biovit Turmeric & Honey formulation has changed her life for the better.

"My husband noticed that I was getting more tired and fatigued over the last few months. He noticed that I wasn't as busy as I used to be. I loved being busy and filling my day with all sorts of activities from shopping to gardening to walking my dogs in the early morning to make the most of each day. This tiredness, fatigue and ill health seemed to be getting worse on a daily basis. I felt my energy and happiness diminishing. I knew I had to take control and do something to turn this situation around and get back on my feet."

"I was getting more tired and fatigued over the last few months"

"I read several articles about the health professionals have been studying the miraculous health benefits of turmeric and honey. These two ancient natural health remedies are now being used in health research to help people just like me."

"the miraculous health benefits of turmeric and honey"

"My husband was recommended by one of his work colleagues about Biovit Miracle Turmeric & Honey. It had worked wonders for his overall health and gave him back the spring in his step that he'd been lacking for months. I had nothing to lose so I decided to try this for myself and see if it could make a difference in my life and get me back to good health."

"I had nothing to lose"

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"I started to notice my wellbeing returning."

"My husband a short while later actually commented on my improved energy and wellbeing. He and I were both impressed by this miraculous ancient health remedy. It has worked for me and I'm now back doing the things I love. I would say try it for yourself and see the health benefits."

"try it for yourself and see the health benefits."

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Jaguar reboot a Brit special

By **Tristan Young**

CABIN FEVER: The Jaguar XE is packed with the latest technology

ROAD RUNNER: The XE's design makes a saloon look incredibly sporty

THE records show Jaguar doesn't sell as many XEs as BMW sells of its 3-Series rival. But only producing a saloon and not having to worry about an estate or halfway-house coupe-hatchback gives the British brand a focus on what looks best for a premium sports saloon. And now Jaguar has refined that sports saloon idea with this latest facelifted XE.

Aimed at those attracted by style and performance, the revised XE is positioned to take advantage of the company car market and those drivers taking the cash option from their employer and making their own choice. These buyers will, therefore, typically be professionals who cover higher annual mileages.

To help buyers, Jaguar has simplified the XE range and is now offering the car with a choice of just three 2.0-litre turbo-charged engines; a pair of petrols with 250bhp or 300bhp or a 180bhp diesel. Jaguar doesn't offer sales forecasts for its cars but in 2017 the pre-facelift XE sold 13,300 units with a quarter being bought as proper company cars with the rest being retail purchases.

However Jaguar admits that within the regular showroom sales there are thought to be a high number of drivers using the cash from a business, be that as small business owners or cash allowances instead of taking a car from a lease company.

Jaguar's designers have maximised the fact they're only working with a saloon. Design boss Ian Callum is unapologetic about the fact that the swooping rear roofline impacts on rear-seat headroom because the result is a great looking sporty saloon.

As the upgrade is simply a facelift, the silhouette of the XE remains unchanged. What is

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LOGBOOK LOWDOWN

- Model: Jaguar XE
- On sale: Now
- Price range: £33,915-£45,835
- Engine range: Turbo-petrol – 2.0, 2.0-litre 300bhp; Turbo-diesel – 2.0-litre
- Power: 0 to 60mph in 5.4 seconds, 155mph top speed (300bhp 2.0 petrol)
- Average fuel economy: 50.7mpg (2.0TD)
- CO^2 emissions: 130-168g/km
- Rivals: Audi A4, BMW 3-Series, Mercedes C-Class, Lexus IS, Volvo S60
- Rating: ★★★★★★★★☆☆

different on the outside is a new front bumper and the front and rear sets of lights.

Jaguar has adopted new LED technology that means the front lights can be made narrower while the grille is made larger to improve the strong look of the XE. At the rear the XE now has new, brighter lights in a chicane design.

Under the bonnet, the new three-engine line-up sees Jaguar offer, in the majority of cases, slightly higher power than its premium rivals from companies such as Audi, BMW and Mercedes.

For outright performance the 300bhp petrol is the engine of choice with an impressive 0 to 60mph time of 5.4 seconds and a 155mph top speed. Diesel may no longer be the popular choice among many drivers but in the XE's case Jaguar could be on to a winner. In the XE the diesel is the only car in the class that conforms to upcoming new emissions regulations. Meeting this standard early means business drivers won't be hit by the four per cent diesel surcharge on company car tax.

A diesel may be the pick for company car drivers but it's also the slowest of the three engines both in terms of acceleration and top speed (0 to 60mph in 7.6 seconds, 140mph).

None of the engines are particularly impressive when it comes to fuel economy though. The diesel wins some points here with a 50.7mpg average figure. The petrols hover in the low to mid-30s.

All three engines are coupled to an eight-speed automatic gearbox and all three can be picked with either rear-wheel or four-wheel drive. However picking the diesel with the latter means it no longer meets those aforementioned new emissions standards.

AND the way the XE drives has been changed little with the mid-life facelift. It means the XE is one of the most comfortable cars in its class while also offering suspension that, in combination with well weighted steering, is still fun in sweeping corners.

Tighter and twistier roads can catch it out because the brakes can be difficult to modulate due to long pedal travel and an eight-speed gearbox that can leave the engine in a part of the rev range that lacks shove.

Refinement levels have been improved with a new sound-suppressing windscreen and this pushes the XE to among the best in class in this respect.

It's also in the cabin where things have taken the biggest leap forward. Now all materials that look soft-touch are exactly that. Alongside the improved materials there's now more technology in the car both as standard and on offer as an option. Standard kit across the range includes powered front seats, Apple Carplay and Android Auto, a new infotainment and satnav screen and a new part-digital central screen with analogue dials.

Jaguar is also pushing its Touch Pro Duo which adds a second (hence "Duo"), lower, control screen below the navigation and it is also promoting the clever digital rear-view mirror as seen on the new Range Rover Evoque.

The result is a package that's appealing for both company car users and private buyers. But the upgrades keep the Jaguar feeling special and different from its German premium rivals and gives people a reason to choose Jaguar.

ELECTRIC OUTLANDER SPARKS LANDMARK SALES FIGURE

ON these pages last week we espoused the increasing appeal of electric cars with the Hyundai Kona and Jaguar I-Pace, now that's underlined with the latest news that Mitsubishi's Outlander, the world's first plug-in SUV introduced in 2013, has just passed 200,000 global sales.

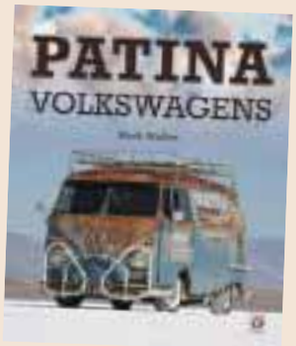
As the UK's best-selling plug-in vehicle since its launch and also Europe's best-selling plug-in hybrid for the past four years, there's no doubting the Outlander's popularity. Priced from £39,500 and with a pure electric range of 28 miles and 46g/km emissions, it's easy to see the appeal for company car drivers.

But with regular charging, as a private car your running costs could be minimal too.

WHEN most car owners might spend their Sunday afternoons washing or polishing their car to make it look its best, there's something refreshing about the alternative.

Mark Walker's book, Patina Volkswagens, is a look at those air-cooled VWs with a rather more "lived-in" look than most. Looking at preservation rather than restoration, it contains the superb quote that you can "paint a lot of fun out of a car" by making it as new. It also looks at the Patina VW club scene too. A fabulous read and a visual delight.

To order Patina Volkswagens by Mark Walker (£30, Veloce), with free P&P, call the Express Bookshop on 01872 562310. Alternatively, send a cheque or PO (made payable to Express Bookshop) to Express Bookshop, PO Box 200, Falmouth TR11 4WJ or order online at expressbookshop.co.uk



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PET INSURERS PAY RECORD £785M IN CLAIMS

PET insurers paid out a record £785million last year to cover the unexpected costs of owning a pet, figures from the Association of British Insurers (ABI) show.

The jump in the cost was driven by a significant increase in the average claim size as veterinary treatment becomes increasingly sophisticated, the ABI said.

The average claim climbed £36 year-on-year to £793 in 2018, with 4.3 million pets protected.

But average premiums were down slightly for the first time in eight years, at £279 in 2018 compared to £281 a year earlier.

Over the past 10 years, the average claim has increased by 75 per cent, while the average premium has increased by 50 per cent, according to the ABI's data.

PAMPERED: Veterinary treatment is getting much more complex

Fewer homes out-earn owners

THE proportion of homes which are "earning" more than their owners is shrinking as house price growth continues to slow, analysis has found.

The average rise in house prices over the last two years has outstripped post-tax earnings in less than one in 10 (eight per cent) local authority districts, Halifax said. This proportion is dwindling compared with nearly one in five (18 per cent) in 2017 and nearly a third (31 per cent) in 2016.

The average UK house price has increased by £14,975 over the past two years, while the average take-home pay over two years has been £46,225.

Earnings exceeded house price growth consistently at a national and regional level across the UK – from £19,649 in London up to £35,250 in Scotland.

Leafy London borough Richmond-upon-Thames was identified as the area where house price growth outpaces take-home pay the most.

The average house price there has increased by £55,483 more than typical net earnings over the past two years.

RBS pensions under review

By **Ravender Sembhy**

ROYAL Bank of Scotland executives will be in the firing line when they are grilled by shareholders at the lender's annual meeting over pension perks for top bosses next week.

The group, 62 per cent owned by the taxpayer, will become the latest bank to face scrutiny over the discrepancy between pensions enjoyed by board members and those of the average worker.

Chief executive Ross McEwan receives a £350,000 pension, which amounts to 35 per cent of his £1million basic salary, but those working in branches typically receive just 10 per cent.

EXCESSIVE: Ross McEwan

Concerns over the arrangement have been raised by The Investment Association, which oversees £7.7trillion in assets, and shareholder society ShareSoc.

The IA said in February that it will monitor and name any company that pays pension contributions to new directors in a way not aligned to the majority of the workforce.

It is also asking companies to reduce the gap between the pensions of top executives and staff and will issue a "red-top" warning – the highest and most serious level – on firms which pay newly appointed directors at rates above the majority of the workforce. It wants pension payments for existing executives brought below 25 per cent.

ShareSoc, which is recommending investors vote against the RBS's remuneration report at the Edinburgh AGM on Friday, has also highlighted that finance director Katie Murray receives a 10 per cent pension payment, much lower than Mr McEwan's.

RBS investors have also been urged to vote down the remuneration report by shareholder advisory firm PIRC, which is angry at Mr McEwan's total £3.6million package which includes shares and incentives.

PIRC said elements of Mr McEwan's pay award are "excessive", pointing out he is paid 46 times more than the average bank employee.

Paul Hollywood bakery looks abroad

THE bakery group behind celebrity baker Paul Hollywood's bread range has revealed plans to gobble up a slice of the US food-to-go market and the Far East after securing investment to expand.

St Pierre Groupe, which recently rebranded from its former name Carrs Foods, is launching its first food-to-go range in America as it looks to boost its fast-growing US business.

The firm has just raised £6.7million backing from BGF and Lloyds Bank for plans to accelerate expansion and snagged David Milner – the former boss of posh crisps brand Tyrrells – as chairman to help drive global growth.

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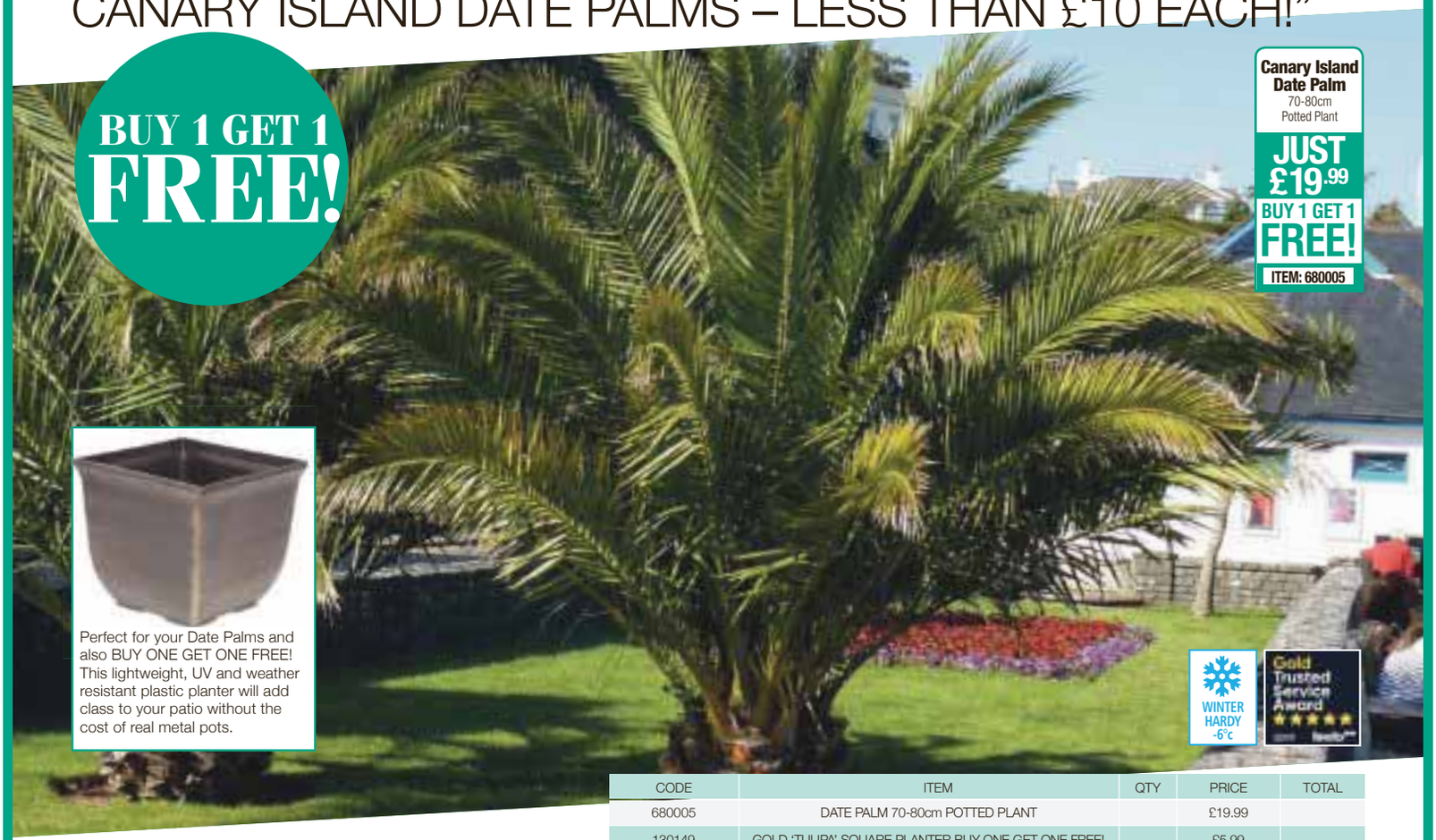

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DAILY EXPRESS Sport

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BRIGHTON SKYSPORTSRACING

4.45 STARSPORTS.BET HANDICAP
£3,752 (Class 5) 5f 215yds (8 declared)

1 (5) 13LL-22 ● UPAVON (36) (C&D) A Carroll 9 9-9 ..... J F Egan ★99
2 (4) 9-32616 REAL ESTATE (22) (D) M Attwater 4 9-7 ..... P Bradley(3) 88
3 (2) 60886-2 DIAMOND LADY (14) (D) W Stone 8 9-6 ..... S W Kelly 89
4 (1) 36L5L8 NATIONAL GLORY (36) (D) A Watson 4 9-5 ..... P-Louis Jamin(7) 88
5 (6) 34457-5 SWISSAL (22) (C&D) David Dennis 4 9-3 ..... C Fallon(7) 88
6 (8) 33-1212 SPIRIT OF ZEBEDEE (22) (D) (T) J J Quinn 6 8-13 ..... L Keniry 94
7 (3) 2-34326 SECONDO (10) (D) R Stephens 9 8-11 ..... P Bridgwater(5) 91
8 (7) 071-3F8 MERCERS (14) (C&D) P Butler 5 8-9 ..... J Watson 87

BLINKERS: Nos. 4, 8 VISOR: Nos. 6, 7 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 5.
SP FORECAST: 3 Spirit Of Zebedee, 5 Real Estate, Upavon, 6 Swissal, Diamond Lady, 7 National Glory, 10 Mercers, 12 Secondo.
2018: Baltic Prince 8-9-5, Poppy Bridgwater(7) 3-1 (A Carroll), drawn (3), 6 ran.

5.20 MAIDEN STAKES 2YO
£3,752 (5) 5f 60yds (7)

1 (6) 3 CHARLEMAINE (21) P Cole 9-5 ..... R Da Silva 81
2 (4) 8 GOOD TIMES TOO (12) M Channon 9-5 ..... C Bishop 85
3 (7) IVOR R Hannon 9-5 ..... Rossa Ryan 81
4 (3) 2 ● OUT OF BREATH (12) (F) J Osborne 9-5 ..... N Currie ★99
5 (1) SPIRITULIST P Evans 9-5 ..... J Watson 80
6 (5) BEIGNET R Hannon 9-0 ..... T Marquand 83
7 (2) 6 HYPOCHONDRIAC (18) P Evans 9-0 ..... H Crouch 84

SP FORECAST: 7-4 Out Of Breath, 5-2 Charlemaine, 4 Beignet, 13-2 Ivor, 12 Good Times Too, 16 Spiritulist, 33 Hypochondriac.
2018: Its The Only Way 9-5, Sean Levey 2-1 Fav (R Hannon), drawn (6), 8 ran.

5.50 STAR SPORTS APP NOW! HANDICAP
£5,531 (4) 6f 210yds (7)

1 (3) 10-3643 ● EMILY GOLDFINCH (9) (C&D) P McEntee 6 9-7 ..... G McEntee(7) ★99
2 (5) 241316- DREAM CATCHING (200) (C&D) A Balding 4 9-6 ..... W Carver(7) 89
3 (2) 3230-63 MAMILLIUS (18) (C&D) G Baker 6 9-5 ..... P Cosgrave 98
4 (7) 537142- BLANCHEFLEUR (180) R Hannon 4 9-4 ..... T Hammer Hansen(5) 88
5 (6) 225728- CRYSTAL DEAUVILLE (147) (C) Miss G Kelleway 4 9-3 S W Kelly 88
6 (4) 397147- KACHUMBA (197) (C&D) R Guest 4 8-12 ..... C Fallon(7) 89
7 (1) 273-343 GLOBAL EXCEED (10) R Cowell 4 8-9 ..... N Currie 91

CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 7 HOOD: No. 5.
SP FORECAST: 5-2 Blanchefleur, 4 Dream Catching, 5 Mamillius, 11-2 Global Exceed, 15-2 Kachumba, Emily Goldfinch, 8 Crystal Deauville.
2018: Hedging 4-9-0, Charles Bishop 3-1 Fav (Eve J-Houghton), drawn (4), 7 ran.

THE SCOUT

4.45 Upavon
5.20 Out Of Breath
5.50 Emily Goldfinch
6.20 Rivas Rob Roy
6.50 Stormingin
7.20 Iley Boy
7.50 Lunar Deity

6.20 HANDICAP
£3,105 (6) 6f 210yds (9)

1 (6) 3529L-0 PERFECT SYMPHONY (26) Mark Pattinson 5 9-7 ..... P Bradley(3) 85
2 (7) 1-82554 CREEK HARBOUR (24) (D,F) R Hughes 4 9-7 ..... S W Kelly 90
3 (3) 78-1L27 DE LITTLE ENGINE (7) (D) A Dunn 5 9-5 ..... Rossa Ryan 84
4 (5) 523670- N OVER J (134) (D) W Knight 4 9-0 ..... J Watson 79
5 (1) 32-2768 BLESSED TO EMPRESS (23) (C) Miss Amy Murphy 4 9-0 ..... G Malune(3) 88
6 (2) 962125 MAAZEL (19) (D) L Carter 5 8-12 ..... D Brock 93
7 (8) 9-34234 ● RIVAS ROB ROY (43) (C&D) J Gallagher 4 8-11 ..... H Crouch ★99
8 (9) 58-8575 MORE SALUTES (24) M Attwater 4 8-2 ..... L Morris 89
9 (4) 495445 MALAYSIAN BOLEH (8) (C&D) P McEntee 9 8-2 ..... N Currie 89

BLINKERS: No. 2 VISOR: Nos. 4, 9 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 3, 8.
SP FORECAST: 5-2 Maazel, 3 Rivas Rob Roy, 9-2 Creek Harbour, 15-2 N Over J, 10 More Salutes, 12 Malaysian Boleh, Blessed To Empress, 14 Others.
2018: Live Dangerously 8-8-7, Kieran O'Neill 11-2 (J Bridger), drawn (6), 9 ran.

6.50 STARSPORTSBET.CO.UK HANDICAP
£3,752 (5) 1m 1f 207yds (7)

1 (2) 2L-4521 THE JEAN GENIE (10) (D) W Stone 5 9-10 ..... R Kingscote 98
2 (5) 576/867- GRAPEVINE (192) (D) C Hills 6 9-7 ..... C Fallon(7) 88
3 (7) 22238-2 ● STORMINGIN (29) G L Moore 6 9-6 ..... H Crouch ★99
4 (1) 433L2L- LAST ENCHANTMENT (J105) N Mulholland 4 9-5 ..... S W Kelly 86
5 (3) 1314L-L ROY ROCKET (24) (C&D,F) J Berry 9 8-13 ..... J F Egan 92
6 (4) 2720 0-0 CAMAKASI (12) (D) Ali Stronge 8 8-13 ..... T Marquand 86
7 (6) 769L- LYN'S SECRET (136) J W Mullins 4 8-12 ..... L Jones 85

HOOD: No. 7.
SP FORECAST: 5-4 The Jean Genie, 3 Stormingin, 5 Roy Rocket, 6 Grapevine, 12 Last Enchantment, 20 Camakasi, 33 Lyn's Secret.
2018: Derek Duval 4-9-8, Daniel Muscutt 11-2 (S C Williams), drawn (5), 8 ran.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Good to Firm. Left Handed. TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2014-19): Luke Morris 16% Strike rate. TOP TRACK TRAINER (2014-19): R Hannon 25% Strike rate. FIRST TIME: 5.50 Crystal Deauville (hood), 6.20 Creek Harbour (blinkers), 6.50 Lyn's Secret (hood), 7.20 Al Daayen (blinkers), 7.50 Zephyros (blinkers). BEATEN FAVOURITES: 6.20 Maazel(hcp), Rivas Rob Roy(hcp). DRAW: In sprint races low numbers tend to have an advantage over five furlongs, high best over six furlongs. LONGEST TRAVELLER: Al Daayen (7.20) 293 miles. STABLE SWITCH: 6.50 Last Enchantment from Eve J-Houghton to N Mulholland. 7.50 Khaziz from H Dunlop to Daniele Camuffo.

7.20 CLASSIFIED STAKES
£3,105 (6) 1m 1f 207yds (11)

1 (8) 242361 CONTINGENCY FEE (3) (C&D,F) P McEntee 4 10-3 ..... G McEntee(7) 94
2 (7) 74-6331 ● ILEY BOY (10) J Gallagher 5 10-1 ..... C Fallon(7) ★99
3 (2) 586-L0L ESTIBDAAD (10) (D) P Butler 9 9-12 ..... T Marquand 82
4 (3) 0/9700-4 FOXY'S SPIRIT (9) Clare Hobson 4 9-12 ..... L Morris 87
5 (11) 09-5578 HARAZ (8) P Butler 6 9-12 ..... J Watson 86
6 (4) 43341F- ROCKSETTE (157) (C&D) G L Moore 5 9-12 ..... H Crouch 87
7 (10) 365534- TRIPLE FIRST (215) J W Mullins 5 9-12 ..... L Jones 86
8 (9) 533536 AL DAAYEN (14) (T) M Johnston 3 8-9 ..... J F Egan 94
9 (1) LL382-0 KENOUGHTY (57) R Hughes 3 8-9 ..... S W Kelly 86
10 (5) 978-8 MISS HAVANA (99) Eve J-Houghton 3 8-9 ..... G Dobie(7) 85
11 (6) 50-L3 MONGOLIA (8) R Hannon 3 8-9 ..... Rossa Ryan 86

BLINKERS: Nos. 5, 8 TONGUE: Nos. 3, 5 CHEEK: Nos. 1, 2, 9 HOOD: Nos. 1, 5.
SP FORECAST: 10-3 Contingency Fee, 4 Mongolia, 5 Iley Boy, 6 Al Daayen, 13-2 Rocksette, 10 Kenoughty, Miss Havana, Triple First, 25 Others.
2018: Happy Ending 3-8-11, Hollie Doyle 13-2 (J W Mullins), drawn (7), 14 ran.

7.50 HANDICAP
£3,105 (6) 7f 211yds (10)

1 (4) L83-171 ● LUNAR DEITY (29) (C&D,F) S C Williams 10 9-7 ..... M Ghani(7) ★99
2 (8) 4443F6- IBALLISTICVIN (242) (C) G L Moore 6 9-5 ..... R Clutterbuck(7) 89
3 (7) 1244-56 ZEPHYROS (54) (D) D Bridgwater 8 9-5 ..... P Bridgwater(5) 98
4 (6) L350-77 DUKE OF NORTH (12) (C&D) J Boyle 7 9-4 ..... I Francis(7) 95
5 (9) L0L8L-0 FAIR POWER (10) (C) J Butler 5 9-0 ..... D Keenan(5) 87
6 (3) 0L0L-09 ENZO (12) (C&D) J Butler 4 9-0 ..... L Keniry 83
7 (1) 3460-17 WITH APPROVAL (94) (C&D) Mrs L Mongan 7 8-12 ..... L Morris 88
8 (5) 3176-45- JUNOESQUE (170) (C&D) J Gallagher 5 8-11 ..... H Crouch 91
9 (2) 34560-L KHAZIX (101) Daniele Camuffo 4 8-11 ..... W Cox(3) 87
10 (10) 32L97L THE SPECIAL ONE (19) (C) P McEntee 6 8-7 ..... N Currie 89

BLINKERS: No. 3 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 7, 8 HOOD: No. 10.
SP FORECAST: 13-8 Lunar Deity, 5 Junoesque, 6 With Approval, 8 Iballisticvin, 10 Zephyros, Duke Of North, 12 Enzo, 14 The Special One, 20 Others.
2018: Pour La Victoire 8-9-7, George Downing 10-3 (A Carroll), drawn (3), 12 ran.

GOSSIP FROM THE GALLOPS

Cotswolds: TROUBLED SOUL (3.50 Haydock)

North: AUSTRIAN SCHOOL (3.35 Musselburgh)

West: COBWEB CATCHER (5.35 Nottingham)

Newmarket: TIGER EYE (3.45 Kempton)

KEMPTON RACINGTV

1.25 EBF NOVICE STAKES (PLUS 10) 2YO
£5,822 (Class 4) 5f (6 declared)

1 (3) AUDIO R Hannon 9-5 ..... T Marquand 82
2 (5) DARK OF NIGHT (F) S bin Suroor 9-5 ..... P Cosgrave 80
3 (1) L LITTLETON HALL (8) M Channon 9-5 ..... C Shepherd 84
4 (2) RATHAGAN R Hughes 9-5 ..... S W Kelly 82
5 (6) 1 ● ELECTRIC LADYLAND (18) (D,F) Archie Watson 9-3 L Morris ★99
6 (4) RIDE AND PREJUDICE Miss J Feilden 9-0 ..... S Birkett 78

SP FORECAST: 13-8 Electric Ladyland, 3 Dark Of Night, Audio, 8 Rathagan, 10 Littleton Hall, 25 Ride And Prejudice.
2018: Lihou 9-2, Fran Berry 10-3 (P Evans), drawn (6), 10 ran.

2.00 BET AT RACINGTV.COM HANDICAP
£15,562 (2) 5f (9)

1 (5) 54-2215 ROYAL BIRTH (28) (D) S C Williams 8 9-11 ..... O Murphy 96
2 (1) 401408- TOMILY (137) (C,D) R Hannon 5 9-7 ..... T Marquand 86
3 (3) 612-144 OUTRAGE (61) (C&D,F) D Kubler 7 9-3 ..... K O'Neill 94
4 (4) 30550-2 ● BLUE DE VEGA (8) (D,F) R Cowell 6 9-1 ..... P J McDonald ★99
5 (8) 610L-L0 UDONTDODOU (21) (D) (T) R C Guest 6 9-0 ..... G Mosse 84
6 (9) 121329- COWBOY SOLDIER (243) (D) R Cowell 4 8-11 ..... L Morris 86
7 (6) 5944-43 GLOBAL ACADEMY (28) (D) Miss G Kelleway 4 8-8 ..... S De Sousa 96
8 (7) 4770-13 PUDS (5) (C,D) R Hughes 4 8-8 ..... George Rooke(7) 92
9 (2) 22-7469 FOXY FOREVER (42) (C&D) M Wigham 9 8-6 ..... J F Egan 94

BLINKERS: Nos. 3, 9 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 9 CHEEK PIECES: No. 7.
SP FORECAST: 3 Blue De Vega, 7-2 Global Academy, 6 Royal Birth, Puds, 8 Outrage, Cowboy Soldier, 10 Tomily, 14 Foxy Forever, 16 Udontdodou.
2018: A Momentofmadness 5-8-12, W Buick 11-4 (C Hills), drawn (3), 8 ran.

2.35 CONDITIONS STAKES (PLUS 10) 3YO
£15,562 (2) 1m (7)

1 (5) 8155- CANTON QUEEN (175) R Hannon 9-2 ..... T Marquand 93
2 (7) 1729-5 GOSPEL (34) M Channon 9-2 ..... Ryan Moore 89
3 (6) 9-1 KODIAC LASS (15) M Botti 9-2 ..... DOUBTFUL 88
4 (1) 1- NAUSHA (175) (D) R Varian 9-2 ..... David Egan 95
5 (2) 31- ● RAINBOW HEART (178) W Haggas 9-2 ..... O Murphy ★99
6 (3) 82-1 RUX POWER (23) A Balding 9-2 ..... S De Sousa 97
7 (4) 332- EL GUMRYAH (189) S Crisford 8-12 ..... A Atzeni 86

SP FORECAST: 7-4 Rainbow Heart, 7-2 Nausha, 5 Canton Queen, 13-2 Gospel, 8 Rux Power, 10 El Gumryah, 16 Kodiac Lass.
2018: Dathanna 9-5, W Buick 10-11 Fav (C Appleby), drawn (2), 4 ran.

THE SCOUT

1.25 Electric Ladyland
2.00 Blue De Vega
2.35 RAINBOW HEART (nap)
3.10 SENZA LIMITI (nb)
3.45 Anna Nerium
4.15 Naadirr
4.50 CAYIRLI

3.10 CONDITIONS STAKES (PLUS 10) 3YO
£15,562 (2) 1m (7)

1 (5) 3311- RIVIERA NIGHTS (203) (D,F) R Hannon 9-5 ..... Ryan Moore 89
2 (6) 16-40 CHAIRMANOFTHEBOARD (8) M Channon 9-2 ..... C Shepherd 98
3 (7) 422216- LEROY LEROY (181) (D) R Hannon 9-2 ..... S De Sousa 88
4 (2) 1- NAME THE WIND (205) (C) J Tate 9-2 ..... P J McDonald 94
5 (4) 1- ● SENZA LIMITI (199) (F) W Haggas 9-2 ..... O Murphy ★99
6 (3) 5-213 TARGET ZONE (45) (C&D) D Elsworth 9-2 ..... D Probert 98
7 (1) JUAN DE VALDES S L Keightley 8-9 ..... J Gordon 83

SP FORECAST: 7-4 Senza Limiti, 3 Riviera Nights, 6 Target Zone, Leroy Leroy, 13-2 Chairmanoftheboard, 10 Name The Wind, 50 Juan De Valdes.
2018: Kings Shield 9-2, Oisin Murphy 4-6 Fav (J Gosden), drawn (4), 5 ran.

3.45 FILLIES' STAKES (LISTED)
£25,520 (1) 1m (14)

1 (14) 122/261- SHEPHERD MARKET (213) (D) C Cox 4 9-3 ..... A Kirby 85
2 (5) 211425- AGROTERA (204) (D) Ed Walker 4 9-0 ..... G Mosse 86
3 (7) 728166- ● ANNA NERIUM (181) (F) R Hannon 4 9-0 T Marquand ★99
4 (12) 1-3 ASTONISHED (22) (C&D) J Tate 4 9-0 ..... P J McDonald 88
5 (8) 612111- CONTRIVE (138) (C&D) R Varian 4 9-0 ..... David Egan 95
6 (4) 1- DADDY'S DAUGHTER (166) (C&D) D Ivory 4 9-0 M Dwyer 88
7 (3) 1/1296- DANCING BRAVE BEAR (213) (D) E Vaughan 4 9-0 S Donohoe 89
8 (6) 1/21335- PREENING (240) (C&D) J Fanshawe 4 9-0 ..... D Probert 98
9 (13) 362338- QUEEN OF TIME (161) (D) H Candy 5 9-0 ..... H Bentley 93
10 (2) 212-21- RAWDAA (196) (D,F) Sir M Stoute 4 9-0 ..... Ryan Moore 94
11 (10) 112L24- SAVAANAH (181) (D) R Charlton 4 9-0 ..... S De Sousa 86
12 (11) 236852- SHENANIGANS (161) (D) R Varian 5 9-0 ..... A Atzeni 93
13 (1) 2-111 TIGER EYE (35)(S) J Fanshawe 4 9-0 ..... O Murphy 98
14 (9) 170545- VIVIANITE (176) (D) Archie Watson 4 9-0 ..... L Morris 92

SP FORECAST: 5 Rawdaa, 6 Tiger Eye, 13-2 Anna Nerium, 8 Agrotera, Shenanigans, 10 Savaanah, Queen of Time, Contrive, 12 Others.
2018: Hunaina 4-9-0, Alexis Badel 7-2 Fav (H F Devin), drawn (5), 10 ran.

4.15 RACINGTV.COM HANDICAP
£15,562 (2) 6f (10)

1 (10) 4L100-4 TIS MARVELLOUS (21) (D) C Cox 5 9-7 ..... A Kirby 91
2 (4) 29/6190- VIBRANT CHORDS (239) (D) H Candy 6 9-1 ..... Ryan Moore 84
3 (9) 1513/66- LAHORE (315) (D) (T) Phillip Makin 5 9-0 ..... S James 82
4 (7) 1-64690 VICTORY WAVE (51) S bin Suroor 5 8-13 ..... O Murphy 83
5 (3) 13LL0-8 ● NAADIRR (20) (C,D) (T) K Ryan 8 8-9 ..... J P Spencer ★99
6 (2) 11-3283 EXCHEQUER (42) (C&D) (T) R C Guest 8 8-6 ..... P Prince 93
7 (8) 1/55411 GLOBAL TANGO (18) (C&D,F) C Hills 4 8-5 ..... S De Sousa 92
8 (1) 1101L-6 EMBOUR (12) (D) R Hannon 4 8-4 ..... M Dwyer 88
9 (5) 22161-3 INDIAN TYGRESS (23) (C&D,F) J Fanshawe 4 8-2 David Egan 98
10 (6) 3-31112 TREACHEROUS (28) (C&D) E De Giles 5 8-2 ..... L Morris 92

BLINKERS: No. 7 VISOR: No. 5 TONGUE STRAP: No. 1 CHEEK PIECES: No. 6 HOOD: No. 4.
SP FORECAST: 4 Global Tango, 6 Indian Tygress, 13-2 Treacherous, Vibrant Chords, 8 Naadirr, Victory Wave, Tis Marvellous, 10 Others.
2018: Raven's Lady 4-8-9, Andrea Atzeni 7-1 (M Botti), drawn (8), 8 ran.

4.50 RACING TV QUEEN'S PRIZE HANDICAP
£15,562 (2) 1m 7f 218yds (11)

1 (6) 114111- WHAT A WELCOME (197) (D) P Chamings 5 9-12 ..... J Haynes 87
2 (8) 1177P- CLIFFS OF DOONEEN (188) (D) R Beckett 4 9-11 ..... H Bentley 88
3 (10) L6-7562 COSMELLI (19) (D) Miss G Kelleway 6 9-9 ..... D Muscutt 98
4 (11) 6423-61 ● CAYIRLI (77) (C&D) S Durack 7 9-3 ..... D Sweeney ★99
5 (4) 315262- NEVER SURRENDER (197) (F) C Hills 5 8-11 ..... J P Spencer 89
6 (7) 21314-7 ARCHIMENTO (21) (C) W Knight 6 8-10 ..... S De Sousa 94
7 (3) 48712-1 EDEN ROSE (26) (D) M Channon 4 8-9 ..... David Egan 95
8 (2) 2514/12- FIBONACCI (J101) (D) A King 5 8-8 ..... D Probert 85
9 (5) 423232- SHARJA SILK (201) R Varian 4 8-7 ..... A Atzeni 91
10 (9) 612803- POLISH (216) R Charlton 4 8-7 ..... P J McDonald 93
11 (1) 31L87-8 GAVLAR (28) (C&D) W Knight 8 8-7 ..... Georgia Dobie(7) 91

BLINKERS: No. 3 VISOR: No. 11.
SP FORECAST: 4 Never Surrender, 5 What A Welcome, 6 Sharja Silk, Cayirli, 8 Eden Rose, 10 Polish, Cosmelli, Fibonacci, Cliffs Of Dooneen, 14 Others.
2018: Cayirli 6-9-2, Shane W Kelly 50-1 (S Durack), drawn (9), 11 ran.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Standard. Right Handed. TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2014-19): Adam Kirby 14% Strike rate. TOP TRACK TRAINER (2014-19): R Hannon 11% Strike rate. BEATEN FAVOURITES: 2.35 El Gumryah. 3.45 Astonished. 4.15 Indian Tygress(hcp), Treacherous(hcp). 4.50 Polish(hcp), Sharja Silk. DRAW: No advantage LONGEST TRAVELLER: Lahore (4.15) 239 miles. STABLE SWITCH: 3.45 Vivianite from M Halford in Ireland to Archie Watson. 4.15 Lahore from C Cox to Phillip Makin. 4.50 Cliffs Of Dooneen from A P O'Brien in Ireland to R Beckett, Fibonacci from F H Graffard in France to A King.

THE SCOUT

4.30 You're Cool
5.05 Making History
5.35 Giacomo Casanova
6.05 Mr Tyrrell
6.35 Alhaazm
7.05 Parknacilla
7.35 Optima Petamus

SCOTTISH EXPRESS: 6.35 FIRST IN LINE (nap)

4.30 UK MEDS DIRECT APPRENTICE HANDICAP
£3,234 (Class 6) 5f 8yds (11 declared)

1 (7) 23-9680 MUTABAAHY (19) A Brittain 4 10-1 ..... K Schofield(5) 87
2 (8) 44-8602 GAMESOME (18) (C) P Midgley 8 9-12 ..... Connor Murtagh(3) 93
3 (9) LL4618- MAJOR VALENTINE (201) (C&D) J G O'Shea 7 9-12 ..... Kate Leahy(7) 86
4 (6) 3244/2- PACO ESCOSTAR (182) (F) Julie Camacho 4 9-10 ..... D Redmond(3) 90
5 (11) 68389-5 FLYING FOXY (17) (D) G Scott 5 9-9 ..... J Cooley(7) 94
6 (4) 31-7562 ● YOU'RE COOL (16) (D) J Balding 7 9-7 ..... I Clifton(7) ★99
7 (10) 25-4494 ROYAL MEZYAN (2) (D) H Spiller 8 9-5 ..... D E Hogan(3) 93
8 (3) 1567-8L PEARL NOIR (44) (D) S Dixon 9 9-3 ..... T Ladd(3) 87
9 (2) 60556-6 TEEPEE TIME (91) (D) M Mullineaux 6 9-3 ..... Jane Elliott 85
10 (1) L65-464 COASTAL CYCLONE (36) H Dunlop 5 8-13 ..... M Godwin 89
11 (5) 9L-973L SWENDAB (14) (D) J G O'Shea 11 8-12 ..... A Beech(5) 87

BLINKERS: Nos. 8, 9, 11 VISOR: No. 10 TONGUE: No. 6 CHEEK: No. 5 HOOD: Nos. 1, 11.
SP FORECAST: 5-2 Gamesome, 5 Paco Escostar, 8 Pearl Noir, Flying Foxy, You're Cool, Major Valentine, 10 Coastal Cyclone, Mutabaahy, 12 Others.

5.05 SOIZA FAMILY NOVICE STAKES 2YO
£4,140 (5) 5f 8yds (7)

1 (5) 3 CHAMPAGNE SUPANOVA (12) (F) R Spencer 9-5 ..... T P Queally 95
2 (7) DYLAN DE VEGA R Fahey 9-5 ..... T Hamilton 83
3 (6) 5 FOAD (15) E Dunlop 9-5 ..... J Crowley 92
4 (1) 5 ISOBAR WIND (8) P Evans 9-5 ..... K O'Neill 98
5 (2) ● MAKING HISTORY S bin Suroor 9-5 ..... Hayley Turner ★99
6 (4) TEMPLE OF HEAVEN (F) R Hannon 9-5 ..... S M Levey 82
7 (3) ZAIN STORM J Butler 9-5 ..... P Mathers 76

SP FORECAST: 5-2 Champagne Supanova, 3 Making History, 4 Isobar Wind, 5 Temple Of Heaven, 8 Foad, Dylan De Vega, 33 Zain Storm.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Good to Firm. Left Handed. TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2014-19): Jim Crowley 32% Strike rate. TOP TRACK TRAINER (2014-19): R Fahey 17% Strike rate. FIRST TIME: 5.35 Cedar (visor), 7.05 Heatherdown (cheek pieces), 7.35 Turnbury (wind surgery). BEATEN FAVOURITES: 4.30 Gamesome(hcp). 5.35 Cobweb Catcher(hcp). 6.05 Lady Of Aran. 6.35 Top Top. 7.05 Ignatius(hcp), Precision Prince(hcp). DRAW: In 5f and 6f when stalls far side - Low best, stands side - High best LONGEST TRAVELLER: Cobweb Catcher (5.35) & Puzzle Cache (7.35) 204 miles.

5.35 LEAFLABS HANDICAP3YO
£4,205 (5) 5f 8yds (11)

1 (6) L41L- LEGAL TENDER (183) (D) B Smart 9-7 ..... H Russell(7) 85
2 (5) 240330- MURQAAB (224) D O'Meara 9-7 ..... D Nolan 85
3 (1) 23753- AMAZING ALBA (210) (F) M Dods 9-6 ..... Robbie Downey 88
4 (11) 084-2L1 ARISHKA (29) (D,F) D Kubler 9-5 ..... K O'Neill 90
5 (4) 604-114 ● GIACOMO CASANOVA (37) (D) K Ryan 9-3 ..... J Crowley ★99
6 (9) 4-23175 HANAKOTOBA (18) (D) S C Williams 9-2 ..... M Crehan(7) 89
7 (3) 727-7 TEODULA (93) H Spiller 9-1 ..... D E Hogan(5) 85
8 (7) 77324-2 COBWEB CATCHER (12) (S,T) B Millman 8-13 ..... R Hornby 96
9 (8) 699-93 KICKHAM STREET (29) J J Quinn 8-13 ..... T Hamilton 87
10 (10) 4581-L5 ONE ONE SEVEN (61) (D) A Brittain 8-8 ..... C Hardie 95
11 (2) 055-0 CEDAR (10) Mohamed Moubarak 8-5 ..... Sara Del Fabbro(7) 88

VISOR: No. 11 TONGUE STRAP: No. 6 HOOD: Nos. 1, 8, 9.
SP FORECAST: 7-2 Cobweb Catcher, 5 Kickham Street, Arishka, 6 Others.

6.05 HANDICAP
£7,763 (4) 1m 75yds (7)

1 (3) 23243-1 ● MR TYRRELL (12) (D,F) R Hannon 5 9-7 ..... S M Levey ★99
2 (7) 602170- KENSTONE (177) (D) A Wintle 6 9-7 ..... M Crehan(7) 86
3 (4) 7-11736 CONFRONTATIONAL (29) (D) J Candlish 5 9-7 ..... T P Queally 98
4 (5) 225499- KHARBETATION (196) (D) D O'Meara 6 9-6 ..... D Nolan 88
5 (2) 4212/ LADY OF ARAN (528) C Fellowes 4 9-6 ..... H Turner 83
6 (6) LL0400- MUTARAKEZ (233) (D) Mrs R Carr 7 9-3 ..... J Garritty 89
7 (1) 833872 JUANITO CHICO (2) (D) S C Williams 5 9-1 ..... J Crowley 94

TONGUE STRAP: No. 7 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 3 HOOD: No. 7.
SP FORECAST: 5-2 Mr Tyrrell, 3 Juanito Chico, 5 Confrontational, Lady Of Aran, 8 Kenstone, Kharbetation, 14 Mutarakez.

6.35 CASTLE BEAUTY MAIDEN STAKES 3YO
£4,528 (5) 1m 2f 50yds (11)

1 (3) AKTAU R Varian 9-5 ..... C Bennett 81
2 (5) 34- ● ALHAAZM (129) Sir M Stoute 9-5 ..... J Crowley ★99
3 (2) BOREAS DUKE M W Easterby 9-5 ..... N Evans 78
4 (7) 6-4 DUBAI INSTINCT (21) B Meehan 9-5 ..... C Shepherd 98
5 (1) FIRST IN LINE J Gosden 9-5 ..... R Havlin 80
6 (9) L LEXINGTON WARLORD (12) R Hannon 9-5 ..... S M Levey 79
7 (6) 6- MEMPHIS BLEEK (211) I Furtado 9-5 ..... T Whelan 92
8 (8) MUNAAZIL R Varian 9-5 ..... D O'Neill 81
9 (10) 0- PLATFORM NINETEEN (176) M Bell 9-5 ..... Hayley Turner 78
10 (4) 33 THELONIOUS (29) M Bell 9-5 ..... L Steward 91
11 (11) 54- TOP TOP (151) Sir M Stoute 9-5 ..... T Price(7) 89

SP FORECAST: 9-4 First In Line, 10-3 Alhaazm, 5 Munaazil, 8 Aktau, Dubai Instinct, Top Top, 14 Thelonious, 25 Memphis Bleek, 33 Others.

NOTTINGHAM RACINGTV

7.05 DS DERBY SALON HANDICAP 3YO
£3,493 (6) 1m 2f 50yds (15)

1 (1) 953370 TWPSYN (17) P Evans 9-11 ..... Gina Mangan(7) 87
2 (11) 62-2138 PRECISION PRINCE (14) M Loughnane 9-11 ..... C Noble(3) 91
3 (4) L64- HUMMDINGER (207) A King 9-11 ..... F Marsh(3) 84
4 (3) L-6546 TRUCKINGBY (16) M Johnston 9-7 ..... J Crowley 87
5 (7) 9L6 WATCH AND LEARN (28) A Balding 9-7 ..... R Hornby 84
6 (12) 0L96-7 RED ARCHANGEL (99) Richard Spencer 9-6 ..... T P Queally 84
7 (9) 000-210 HEATHERDOWN (38) I Williams 9-6 ..... R Havlin 84
8 (5) 80L9- NABVUTIKA (143) J Butler 9-4 ..... T Clark(3) 75
9 (14) 767-5 ● PARKNACILLA (26) H Spiller 9-2 ..... D E Hogan(5) ★99
10 (8) 900- BUMBLEKITE (161) Steph Hollinshead 9-0 ..... Toby Eley(7) 79
11 (6) 7193-56 IGNATIUS (26) J Best 9-0 ..... K Fox 98
12 (15) 8647 33- JAZZ HANDS (177) (F) R Fahey 9-0 ..... T Hamilton 88
13 (2) 98L-033 CRAZY SPIN (14) I Furtado 8-10 ..... K O'Neill 92
14 (13) L5-2876 ARRIBA DE TODA (43) B Ellison 8-8 ..... C Hardie 84
15 (10) 049976 MIDNITE RENDEZVOUS (8) D Shaw 8-8 ..... P Mathers 83

BLINKERS: No. 4 VISOR: No. 15 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 7, 13, 14 HOOD: No. 6.
SP FORECAST: 11-2 Jazz Hands, 13-2 Crazy Spin, 7 Parknacilla, Precision Prince, 8 Ignatius, 10 Truckingby, Heatherdown, Hummdinger, 12 Others.

7.35 CLASSIFIED STAKES
£3,364 (6) 1m 2f 50yds (16)

1 (8) 8-89891 AINNE (8) (F) S Kirk 4 9-1 ..... G Mahon(3) 86
2 (12) 776-550 AMITY ISLAND (23) O Pears 4 9-0 ..... Connor Murtagh(5) 85
3 (10) 6559- BAMBAJEE (154) Tim Pinfield 6 9-0 ..... T Ladd(5) 88
4 (7) 16-3545 BLYTON LASS (16) (D) J Given 4 9-0 ..... DOUBTFUL 98
5 (13) 70L-L07 COSMIC RAY (26) (C) J L Eyre 7 9-0 ..... O'Neill 81
6 (1) 7L99-00 JACK OF DIAMONDS (25) (D) R Teal 10 9-0 ..... S Cronin(5) 86
7 (3) 8LL-99 LATE FOR THE SKY (40) Mrs S Barclay 5 9-0 ..... T Eley(7) 82
8 (5) L86 NOEL (17) D Kubler 4 9-0 ..... K O'Neill 84
9 (4) 3523-25 ● OPTIMA PETAMUS (17) (F) Liam Bailey 7 9-0 ..... J Garritty ★99
10 (6) 5970-08 PERCEIVED (60) (C,D) A Brittain 7 9-0 ..... C Hardie 88
11 (9) 53566-9 POLLYISSIMO (16) (F) H Spiller 4 9-0 ..... D E Hogan(5) 87
12 (14) LL64 PUZZLE CACHE (10) (T) B Millman 5 9-0 ..... R Hornby 88
13 (11) 583-9 TELEKINETIC (94) Miss J Feilden 4 9-0 ..... Shelley Birkett 89
14 (16) L/L-68 THE WIRE FLYER (17) J Flint 4 9-0 ..... T P Queally 83
15 (2) 8/LL576- TURNBURY (J60) (D) Mrs N Evans 8 9-0 ..... R Tate 87
16 (15) 3-39743 WOGGLE (17) G Deacon 4 9-0 ..... T Whelan 82

BLINKERS: No. 12 VISOR: No. 11 TONGUE: Nos. 1, 9, 16 CHEEK: Nos. 1, 6, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16 HOOD: No. 5.
SP FORECAST: 4 Ainne, 9-2 Optima Petamus, 11-2 Puzzle Cache, 15-2 Woggle, 10 Amity Island, 12 Pollyissimo, Turnbury, Noel, Perceived, 20 Others.

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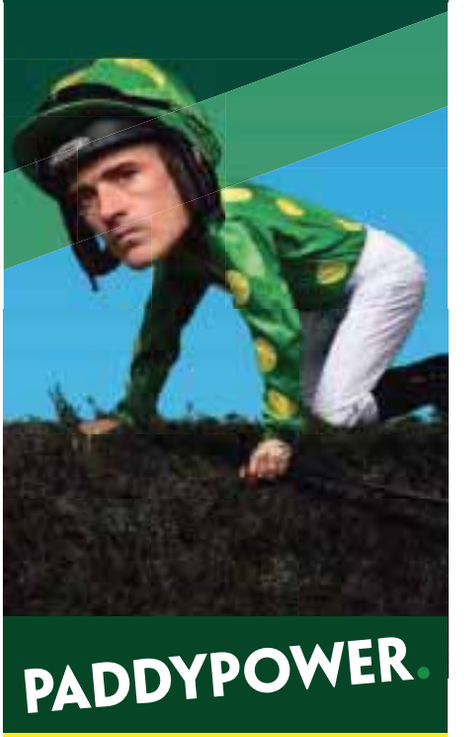

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SPEED KING: Kachy never saw a rival from the front

Peak performance,

Chris GOULDING REPORTS

IT would not have been a surprise to see a camel galloping across the sands at a sun-drenched Lingfield on Championship Finals Day – and hotpot Wissahickon certainly resembled one when given a thorough drubbing by Matterhorn in the Betway Easter Classic Middle Distance Stakes.

Wissahickon, the impressive winner of last season's Cambridgeshire and sent off the 1-3 favourite, looked on course for a sixth successive victory as his stable companion Court House set the pace.

But when asked by Frankie Dettori to take his race, two furlongs from home, he found nothing.

While Dettori was having sand kicked in his face, Joe Fanning had set sail for home with Matterhorn.

His success in the £124,000 contest also enabled the colt to pick up the £10,000 bonus prize for becoming the most prolific winner on the all-weather this season with seven wins.

Dettori returned dumbfounded and said: "Perhaps he was a little flat, but the winner was mighty impressive."

John Gosden, the colt's trainer, took another view, saying: "Racing three wide, from that draw (eight) it's tough round here when you meet the bend so quickly. He's a cover-up horse."

Mark Johnston, the trainer of Matterhorn, admitted that the four-year-old had come close to being sold in the autumn, although he revealed that he would have bought him.

"We always thought he was a good horse, but he had problems last year," said Johnston. "He was going to the sales last October, but we ran him just before to see if he was worth keeping, and he was."

Johnston was earlier on the mark when Watersmeet took the Betway Marathon Stakes, also ridden by Fanning.

"He deserved that," explained Johnston. "He's actually run three times on this day, as he ran in the Middle-Distance the first time (ninth in 2016) and then was second in the Marathon two years ago and third last year, so it was his turn."

On a day when the temperatures hit the 80s, the coolest man on the course

MUSSELBURGH RACINGTV

THE SCOUT

1.50 Porth Swtan
2.25 Politicise
3.00 A Momentofmadness
3.35 Ulster
4.05 Mont Kinabalu
4.40 Clayton
5.15 Super Julius
5.45 Gowanbuster

1.50 SILVER ARROW HANDICAP £12,450 (Cl 3) 7f 33yds (10 dec) ITV4

1 (5) L33767- **LAKE VOLTA (189) (D)** M Johnston 4 9-11 ..... **J Fanning** 92
2 (3) 132L4-4 **THREE SAINTS BAY (18) (D)** D O'Meara 4 9-7 **D Tudhope** 95
3 (8) 00984-0 **BRIAN THE SNAIL (21) (T)** R Fahey 5 9-6 ..... **P Hanagan** 88
4 (1) 8118L-1 ● **PORTH SWTAN (18) (C&D,F)** G Moss 4 9-6 ..... **J Hart** ★99
5 (6) 80553**2**- **COMMANDER HAN (207) (D)** K Ryan 4 9-4 ..... **K Stott** 92
6 (10) 60351-2 **RASELASAD (18) (C&D)** Miss T Waggott 5 9-3 **R Ffrench** 96
7 (4) 83010-3 **HAYADH (18) (C&D)** Rebecca Bastiman 6 9-3 ..... **D Allan** 96
8 (2) 59031**1**- **PARYS MOUNTAIN (165) (D) (T)** T Easterby 5 9-2 **P Mulrennan** 91
9 (9) 455L0-0 **OWER FLY (20) (D)** Mrs R Carr 6 9-1 ..... **JP Sullivan** 93
10 (7) 1**72**/**32**7- **GARRICK (294) (T)** T Easterby 5 9-1 **Rachel Richardson** 88

HOOD: No. 8.

SP FORECAST: 7-2 Porth Swtan, 5 Raselasad, 6 Three Saints Bay, Commander Han, 13-2 Lake Volta, Hayadh, 8 Parys Mountain, 16 Garrick, 20 Others.
2018: Lualiwa 4-9-4, Kevin Stott 6-1 (K Ryan), drawn (3), 10 ran.
GUIDE: Porth Swtan got the better of **RASELASAD** by a length over course and distance (gd-frm) at the beginning of the month, but Tracy Waggott's likeable front-runner may be capable of holding on this time off the same mark, with his rival now racing off a 3lb higher rating. **Hayadh** and **Three Saints Bay** were third and fourth in that contest and are others who have to be considered, along with **Commander Han**, who has placed off this figure over the distance the last twice on the all-weather.

2.25 ROYAL MILE HANDICAP 3YO £18,675 (2) 1m 2yds (8) ITV4

1 (8) 5106**21**- **BIG BABY BULL (176) (D) (T)** R Hannon 9-7 ..... **Doubtful** 64
2 (2) **45-421**2 **ON THE LINE (12) (D,F) (T)** H Palmer 9-5 ..... **J Mitchell** 96
3 (5) 441l5-0 **LINCOLN PARK (8) (T)** M Appleby 9-4 ..... **D Costello** 88
4 (6) 612- ● **POLITICISE (194) (T)** W Haggas 9-3 ..... **D Tudhope** ★99
5 (7) 22521-6 **AMADEUS GREY (12) (C) (T)** T Easterby 9-2 ..... **D Allan** 89
6 (1) **421** **REGGAE RUNNER (63) (D,F)** M Johnston 9-0 **J Fanning** 96
7 (3) **41-3L** **COOLAGH FOREST (86) (T)** R Fahey 8-12 ..... **P Hanagan** 91
8 (4) 8459-**23** **HOWZER BLACK (24)** K Dalgleish 8-11 ..... **S P Davis(5)** 93

BLINKERS: No. 2 TONGUE STRAP: No. 2.

SP FORECAST: 15-8 Politicise, 5-2 On The Line, 4 Reggae Runner, 8 Coolagh Forest, 10 Howzer Black, 14 Amadeus Grey, 20 Lincoln Park.
2018: Book of Dreams 8-12, P J McDonald 6-1 (M Johnston), drawn (2), 11 ran.
GUIDE: This could go the way of William Haggas's handicap debutant **POLITICISE**, who got off the mark in useful fashion at Newbury (7f, gd-sft) on just his second start and bumped into a potentially smart operator when runner-up (1m, sft) at Windsor subsequently. Lingfield (1m, pol) winner **Reggae Runner** is another who appeals on his handicap bow, while **On The Line** has been in good form on the all-weather of late and having gone close at Redcar (1m, gd) on his return to turf last month, has to be considered.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Good. Right Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2014-19):** Joe Fanning 19% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2014-19):** K Dalgleish 15% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 5.15 Rumshak (tongue strap). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 1.50 Garrick(hcp). 3.00 Soldier's Minute(hcp). 3.35 Lucky Deal(hcp). Ulster(hcp). 5.15 Suwaan(hcp). 5.45 Lathom(hcp). **DRAW:** In races up to a mile low numbers are usually at an advantage. **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Super Julius** (5.15) Ireland; **Big Baby Bull** (2.25) 381 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 1.50 **Garrick** from J Gosden to T Easterby. 4.40 **Clayton** from G L Moore to Archie Watson. 5.45 **Lathom** from Julie Camacho to P Midgley.

3.00 SCOTTISH SPRINT CUP HANDICAP £31,125 (2) 5f 1yds (17) ITV4

1 (9) 6231-6L **MARNIE JAMES (86) (C&D)** I Jardine 4 9-10 **Scott McCullagh(7)** 92
2 (7) 3L2019- ● **A MOMENTOFMADNESS (196) (D,F) (T)** C Hills 6 9-8 **D Tudhope** ★99
3 (17) 362553- **FINAL VENTURE (203) (D)** P Midgley 7 9-7 ..... **P Mulrennan** 95
4 (8) 50144l- **COPPER KNIGHT (164) (D) (T)** T Easterby 5 9-4 ..... **D Allan** 98
5 (6) 67112-6 **CAPTAIN COLBY (18) (C&D)** P Midgley 7 9-2 **B Robinson(3)** 96
6 (2) 125803- **SAVALAS (207) (D)** K Ryan 4 9-2 ..... **T Eaves** 93
7 (13) **112251** **ORNATE (2) (D) (T)** D C Griffiths 6 9-3(5ex) ..... **P Dennis** 98
8 (5) L243L-2 **LINE OF REASON (3) (C&D)** P Midgley 9 8-12 ..... **C Beasley** 98
9 (1) L2L1-**15** **SOLDIER'S MINUTE (21) (C,F)** K Dalgleish 4 8-11 ..... **J Fanning** 97
10 (11) 1518**0**-4 **ROYAL BRAVE (18) (C&D)** R Bastiman 8 8-9 ..**R Ffrench** 96
11 (14) 131060- **HAROME (241) (D)** Roger Fell 5 8-9 ..... **Ben Curtis** 88
12 (4) 18970-9 **GABRIAL THE SAINT (12) (T)** R Fahey 4 8-8 **S P Davis(5)** 92
13 (10) **L45-651** **MOKAATIL (5) (D) (T)** I Williams 4 8-8(5ex) ..... **A Breslin(5)** 95
14 (3) 112517- **EEH BAH GUM (210) (D) (T)** T Easterby 4 8-7 **Rachel Richardson** 93
15 (15) **57-5142** **SAAHEQ (16) (D) (T)** M Appleby 5 8-3 ..... **Hollie Doyle** 98
16 (12) **1-53414** **PRIMO'S COMET (36) (C&D)** J Goldie 4 8-0 **J Gormley(3)** 94
17 (16) **5L598L** **CLASSIC PURSUIT (3) (D)** Stef Keniry 8 8-0 ..... **A Mullen** 88

BLINKERS: No. 17 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 4 HOOD: No. 2.

SP FORECAST: 13-2 Mokaatil, 8 Soldier's Minute, 10 Copper Knight, A Momentofmadness, Ornate, Savalas, Line Of Reason, 12 Others.
2018: Caspian Prince 9-9-10, Alistair Rawlinson 16-1 (M Appleby), drawn (9), 16 ran.
GUIDE: It is surprising that **A MOMENTOFMADNESS** has never raced at this venue before as Charlie Hills' sprinter has plenty in his favour, with front runners doing particularly well over this course and distance. He is 5lb higher than for his Portland victory at Doncaster (6f, gd), but he has gone well fresh in the past and can make a winning return. **Mokaatil** has a 5lb penalty for his success at Pontefract (5f, gd-fm) on Monday but is likely to give another bold account. **Line Of Reason** won this two years ago (gd-fm) and warmed up with a good effort earlier this week when second at Beverley (5f, gd-fm).

3.35 QUEEN'S CUP STAKES £62,250 (2)1m 5f 216yds (14) ITV4

1 (2) 07166-L **SIR CHAUVELIN (20) (D)** J Goldie 7 9-10 ..... **D Tudhope** 91
2 (12) 424220- **HOCHFELD (161) (D)** M Johnston 5 9-7 ..... **A Breslin(5)** 92
3 (14) 232223- **AUSTRIAN SCHOOL (197) (D,S)** M Johnston 4 9-5 **J Fanning** 96
4 (8) 010L0L- **MY REWARD (238) (T)** T Easterby 7 9-4 ..... **D Allan** 85
5 (5) 7130**03**- **MAKING MIRACLES (161) (D)** M Johnston 4 9-1 **A Mullen** 95
6 (4) 8213-**28** **KELLY'S DINO (21)** K Burke 6 9-0 ..... **Ben Curtis** 92
7 (10) **114-214** **LUCKY DEAL (19) (D)** M Johnston 4 8-13 ..... **F Norton** 96
8 (6) **4/1122** ● **ULSTER (38) (T)** Archie Watson 4 8-10 ..**Hollie Doyle** ★99
9 (3) 0/61300- **MIRSAALE (J245) (D)** K Dalgleish 9 8-10 ..... **JP Sullivan** 86
10 (1) **3143-42** **PIPES OF PEACE (21) (T)** S Durack 5 8-10 ..... **T Eaves** 92
11 (9) 513L6-**4** **TOR (106) (C&D)** I Jardine 5 8-8 ..... **J Gormley(3)** 89
12 (13) 113119- **ARTARMON (190) (C&D) (T)** M Bell 4 8-7 ..... **P Hanagan** 91
13 (7) 30L050- **EYE OF THE STORM (189)** K Dalgleish 9 8-5 **S P Davis(5)** 88
14 (11) 7**3**632L- **FIRE JET (185) (D) (T)** J Mackie 6 8-5 ..... **R Ffrench** 89

VISOR: No. 12 TONGUE STRAP: No. 10 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 6, 9.

SP FORECAST: 9-2 Austrian School, 11-2 Ulster, 7 Lucky Deal, 15-2 Making Miracles, 8 Pipes Of Peace, 10 Hochfeld, Sir Chauvelin, 12 Tor, Artarmon, Kelly's Dino, 16 Others.
2018: Brandon Castle 6-8-11, Andrew Mullen 10-1 (Archie Watson), drawn (3), 13 ran.
GUIDE: AUSTRIAN SCHOOL has continued to creep up the handicap despite not getting his head in front since Chester (1m4f, gd) in May, but Mark Johnston's colt signed off 2018 with a career-best effort in a Listed contest at Ascot (1m6f, gd) and a return to handicap company can see him back to winning ways. Stable companion **Making Miracles** also enjoyed a good campaign last year and appreciated a drop to this distance when third at Chelmsford (pol) in November. The son of Pivotal completes the shortlist along with **Ulster**, who has been very consistent on the all-weather recently.

4.05 LIKE RACING TV ON FACEBOOK HANDICAP £5,693 (4) 1m 208yds (6)

1 (6) 36/0005- **BRILLIANT VANGUARD (323)** K Ryan 6 9-11 **B Sanderson(5)** 89
2 (5) 461240- **MULLIGATAWNY (183)** Roger Fell 6 9-7 ..... **Ben Curtis** 94
3 (2) 6-**548L1** ● **MONT KINABALU (11)** K Ryan 4 8-12 ..... **T Eaves** ★99
4 (3) 4410**L-1** **VENTURA GOLD (15) (C&D) (T)** R Fahey 4 8-11 **S P Davis(5)** 98
5 (1) 3135-**78** **ZESHOV (10) (C)** Rebecca Bastiman 8 8-11 ..... **L Edmunds** 92
6 (4) 123205- **JACOB BLACK (187) (C)** K Dalgleish 8 8-11 ..... **J Fanning** 97

CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 5, 6.

SP FORECAST: 2 Mont Kinabalu, 5-2 Ventura Gold, 5 Mulligatawny, 6 Jacob Black, 8 Brilliant Vanguard, 10 Zeshov.

4.40 SELLING STAKES£5,693 (4) 104yds (6) 1m 4f

1 (6) 11004-0 **ANDOK (21) (T)** R Fahey 5 9-6 ..... **S P Davis(5)** 79
2 (5) 3100**0/6** **APTERIX (9) (D) (T)** B Ellison 9 9-2 ..... **B Robinson(3)** 82
3 (2) 341284/ ● **CLAYTON (J36) (T)** Archie Watson 10 9-2 **Hollie Doyle** ★99
4 (4) 605**258**- **GRAND INQUISITOR (J36) (T)** I Williams 7 9-2 **Ben Curtis** 90
5 (3) 9L7750- **HAYWARD FIELD (144) (D)** N Wilson 6 9-2 ..... **C Beasley** 76
6 (1) LL **PUT THE LAW ON YOU (12)** A Whillans 4 9-2 **R Scott(3)** 73

TONGUE STRAP: No. 3 CHEEK PIECES: No. 1.

SP FORECAST: 11-10 Clayton, 5-2 Grand Inquisitor, 9-2 Andok, 6 Apterix, 33 Hayward Field, 100 Put The Law On You.

5.15 RACINGTV.COM HANDICAP (DIV 1) £4,399 (5) 5f 1yds (10)

1 (2) **174-450** **CHOOKIE DUNEDIN (19) (D)** K Dalgleish 4 9-9 ..... **C Beasley** 94
2 (5) **2-52524** **AMAZING GRAZING (25) (D)** Rebecca Bastiman 5 9-7 **D Tudhope** 98
3 (10) **1L57-LL** **RUMSHAK (7) (D)** M Dods 4 9-5 ..... **Paula Muir(5)** 87
4 (9) L401-**74** **GOLD STONE (51) (D)** K Ryan 4 9-4 ..... **S Gray** 97
5 (6) L8L-**L98** **ORIENT CLASS (22) (C&D)** P Midgley 8 9-1 ..... **G Lee** 85
6 (7) 3**37974**- **SUWAAN (143) (C&D)** Mrs R Carr 5 9-1 ..... **JP Sullivan** 87
7 (3) 3620**60**- **KINLOCH PRIDE (183) (C&D)** N Wilson 7 8-10 ..... **P Hanagan** 88
8 (1) 3-**8LL**52 ● **SUPER JULIUS (5) (D)** S Donohoe (IRE) 5 8-8 ..... **Ben Curtis** ★99
9 (4) **5-8755**5 **LORD OF THE GLEN (18) (D)** J Goldie 4 8-7 **J Gormley(3)** 95
10 (8) 1L**009-L** **JEFFREY HARRIS (22) (C&D)** J Goldie 4 8-7 ..**P Denis** 87

TONGUE STRAP: No. 3 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 7, 8 HOOD: No. 10.

SP FORECAST: 2 Super Julius, 7-2 Gold Stone, 6 Amazing Grazing, 13-2 Suwaan, 8 Lord Of The Glen, 10 Chookie Dunedin, 14 Kinloch Pride, 25 Others.
2018: Jacob's Pillow 7-9-7, Daniel Tudhope 5-1 (Rebecca Bastiman), drawn (3), 9 ran.

5.45 RACINGTV.COM HANDICAP (DIV 2) £4,399 (5) 5f 1yds (9)

1 (3) 0776L-1 **PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH (7)** K Ryan 5 9-7 ..**S P Davis(5)** 89
2 (9) 50-1 **TABAAHY (14) (D)** D O'Meara 4 9-6 ..... **D Tudhope** 92
3 (8) 43711-1 **OUR PLACE IN LOULE (18) (C&D,F)** N Wilson 6 9-5 **P Hanagan** 92
4 (2) 47454**8**/ **LATHOM (512) (D)** P Midgley 6 9-2 ..... **G Lee** 83
5 (5) 24293L- **SUPER FLORENCE (193)** I Jardine 4 9-1 ..... **J Gormley(3)** 88
6 (1) **20-3431** ● **GOWANBUSTER (22) (D)** S Corbett 4 9-0 **P Mulrennan** ★99
7 (4) 180**408**- **BURMESE BLAZER (143) (C&D)** J Goldie 4 8-9 **B Robinson(3)** 82
8 (7) L6666-8 **ECONOMIC CRISIS (18) (C&D)** A Berry 10 8-7 ..**JP Sullivan** 92
9 (6) 3040**09**- **HAVANA GO (150)** K Dalgleish 4 8-7 ..... **J Fanning** 83

BLINKERS: No. 3 TONGUE STRAP: No. 6 EYE COVERS: No. 1 HOOD: No. 7.

SP FORECAST: 5-2 Our Place In Loule, 3 Pennsylvania Dutch, 4 Tabaahy, 11-2 Gowanbuster, 10 Super Florence, 12 Lathom, 14 Burmese Blazer, 25 Havana Go, 33 Economic Crisis.

RESULTS

BATH: Good to firm-firm in places

1.50–THE CRUISING LORD (J F Egan, 5-2 2nd fav) 1; Bluebell Time (40-1) 2; Global Prospector (1-2 fav) 3. 5 ran. 6l, 2¼l. (M Attwater). Tote: £2.90; pl £1.20, £4.90. exacta: £36.60. trifecta: £80.70. CSF: £54.28.

2.20–ZULU ZANDER (A Kirby, 10-11 fav) 1; Album (5-1) 2; Don't Joke (9-4 2nd fav) 3. 6 ran. 1¾l, ¾l. (P Evans). Tote: £1.60; pl £1.10, £2.20. exacta: £4.40. trifecta: £12.10. CSF: £6.12. Non-runners: Brown Eyes Blue, Queens Road, Willa.

2.55–LIVING LEGEND (F Norton, 4-1) 1; Pablo Escobarr (7-2 2nd fav) 2; Fearless Warrior (9-2) 3. H'cap 7 ran. shd, 6l. (M Johnston; 3-1 fav West End Charmer). Tote: £4.30; pl £2.00, £2.50. exacta: £14.10. trifecta: £74.50. CSF: £19.53.

3.30–PETRUS (M Dwyer, 5-1) 1; Salute The Soldier (7-2 fav) 2; Wahash (8-1) 3. H'cap 12 ran. shd, 1l. (B Meehan). Tote: £5.30; pl £2.10, £1.60, £2.90. exacta: £16.20. tricast: £126.80. trifecta: £214.00. CSF: £21.68. Non-runners: Breden, Mythical Madness, Power of Darkness.

4.05–QUEEN OF DESIRE (J Mitchell, 11-4 fav) 1; Gold Filigree (7-1) 2; Heartwarming (7-1) 3. 9 ran. ½l, nk. (R Varian). Tote: £3.30; pl £1.60, £1.60, £2.80. exacta: £17.50. trifecta: £137.30. CSF: £23.47. Non-runners: Fizzy Feet, Maid In India.

4.35–HAREEQ (S W Kelly, 8-1) 1; Bayshore Freeway (5-2 fav) 2; Hollywood Road (5-1) 3. H'cap 9 ran. 3½l, 1l. (R Hughes). Tote: £8.10; pl £1.50, £2.50, £1.20. exacta: £24.40. tricast: £71.35. trifecta: £86.00. CSF: £22.80. Non-runners: Bleu Et Noir, Given Choice.Given Choice| Rule 4 applies to All Bets, deduct 15p in the pound

5.05–THE DALEY EXPRESS (F Norton, 5-4 fav) 1; Acclaim The Nation (6-1) 2; Little Boy Blue (9-1) 3. H'cap 9 ran. nk, 1l. (R Harris). Tote: £1.90; pl £1.10, £2.00, £2.30. exacta: £8.20. tricast: £50.39. trifecta: £27.80. CSF: £9.56. Non-runner: Bahamian Sunrise.

Placepot: £35.30
(Race 1) 3, 4; (2) 1, 2; (3) 3, 2; (4) 5, 7, 6; (5) 5, 1, 10; (6) 7, 1, 2;
Quadpot: £6.80

LINGFIELD: Standard

1.30–GORING (Georgia Dobie, 14-1) 1; Raucous (9-1) 2; Giogiobbo (50-1) 3. H'cap 12 ran. ½l, 1½l. (Eve J-Houghton; 7-2 fav Breathless Times). Tote: £20.10; pl £5.10, £3.20, £19.00. exacta: £163.70. tricast: £6133.97. trifecta: £2542.10. CSF: £134.76. Non-runners: Apex King, Philamundo.

2.00–WATERSMEET (J Fanning, 7-1 jt 2nd fav) 1; Amade (4-6 fav) 2; Spark Plug (9-1) 3. 10 ran. 2¼l, 1½l. (M Johnston). Tote: £7.70; pl £2.10, £1.10, £2.30. exacta: £15.40. tricast: £47.82. trifecta: £81.50. CSF: £12.39. Non-runner: Grey Britain.

2.30–HEAVENLY HOLLY (Ryan Moore, 9-1) 1; Island Of Life (9-2 jt 2nd fav) 2; Silvery Mist (11-1) 3. 12 ran. 1l, ½l. (H Palmer; 7-2 fav Rasima). Tote: £10.20; pl £3.10, £2.50, £2.90. exacta: £66.20. tricast: £475.11. trifecta: £946.20. CSF: £50.29.

3.05–KACHY (R Kingscote, 4-9 fav) 1; George Bowen (10-1) 2; Merhoob (20-1) 3. 11 ran. 3¼l, 2l. (T Dascombe). Tote: £1.40; pl £1.10, £2.60, £4.20. exacta: £10.10. tricast: £58.96. trifecta: £65.50. CSF: £6.54.

3.40–PIZZICATO (C Soumillon, 11-4 fav) 1; Deputise (9-2 2nd fav) 2; James Street (8-1) 3. 12 ran. shd, 4½l. (F Chappet (FR)). Tote: £3.00; pl £1.20, £2.20, £2.80. exacta: £16.60. tricast: £90.37. trifecta: £106.80. CSF: £14.40.

4.15–MATTERHORN (J Fanning, 9-2 2nd fav) 1; Wissahickon (1-3 fav) 2; Pactolus (40-1) 3. 8 ran. 7l, 7½l. (M Johnston). Tote: £6.20; pl £1.40, £1.02, £14.60. exacta: £9.30. tricast: £74.42. trifecta: £168.10. CSF: £7.28.

4.45–OH THIS IS US (T Marquand, 5-1 co 2nd fav) 1; Indyco (4-1 fav) 2; Glendevon (8-1) 3. 11 ran. ¾l, 2½l. (R Hannon). Tote: £5.90; pl £2.10, £1.80, £2.90. exacta: £43.10. tricast: £166.33. trifecta: £364.00. CSF: £28.17.

Placepot: £80.10
(Race 1) 2, 3, 5; (2) 10, 1, 8; (3) 6, 7, 10; (4) 8, 7, 9; (5) 7, 4, 6; (6) 4, 8, 5;
Quadpot: £6.00

NEWCASTLE: Standard

1.40–LADY KERMIT (P Mulrennan, 1-4 fav) 1; Mighty Spirit (10-1) 2; Stars In The Night (14-1) 3. 10 ran. 1¼l, 1½l. (Archie Watson). Tote: £1.20; pl £1.02, £1.90, £3.40. exacta: £5.00. trifecta: £25.90. CSF: £5.20.

2.10–LUFRICIA (A Atzeni, 7-1) 1; Rocket Action (9-4 2nd fav) 2; Exalted Angel (11-1) 3. 11 ran. 1¼l, 2l. (R Varian; 11-8 fav Show Me A Sunset). Tote: £6.20; pl £1.70, £1.30, £2.80. exacta: £19.70. trifecta: £106.40. CSF: £23.24.

2.45–GLOBAL WARNING (G Mosse, 3-1 fav) 1; Chosen World (6-1 2nd fav) 2; Chaplin Bay (13-2) 3. H'cap 13 ran. 3¼l, 1l. (E Dunlop). Tote: £4.40; pl £2.10, £1.70, £2.50. exacta: £24.20. tricast: £112.15. trifecta: £102.00. CSF: £19.67. Non-runner: Irish Minister.

3.20–FOX POWER (S De Sousa, 7-1) 1; Daarik (5-2 fav) 2; Bayroot (15-2) 3. 11 ran. 1¼l, hd. (R Hannon). Tote: £6.80; pl £2.50, £1.50, £2.20. exacta: £26.10. trifecta: £204.20. CSF: £24.33. Non-runner: Insandi.

3.55–BARTHOLOMEU DIAS (A Atzeni, 18-1) 1; Forbidden Planet (3-1 fav) 2; Baghdad (7-1) 3. H'cap 14 ran. ½l, hd. (C Hills). Tote: £24.00; pl £5.10, £1.60, £2.70. exacta: £114.90. tricast: £436.91. trifecta: £561.70. CSF: £69.16.

4.25–GANTIER (J Crowley, 5-2 2nd fav) 1; Smarter (3-1) 2; Bo Samraan (7-4 fav) 3. H'cap 5 ran. ½l, 2½l. (J Gosden). Tote: £2.70; pl £1.90, £1.70. exacta: £9.00. trifecta: £14.80. CSF: £10.14.

4.55–ORIENTAL LILLY (J Gormley, 6-1) 1; Landing Night (18-1) 2; Another Angel (5-1 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 12 ran. ½l, ½l. (J Goldie; 3-1 fav Burford Brown). Tote: £7.40; pl £2.50, £5.10, £2.50. exacta: £107.70. tricast: £593.95. trifecta: £607.10. CSF: £107.55. Non-runner: Justice Lady.

Jackpot: Not won, pool of £7,571.53 carried over.
Placepot: £14.20
(Race 1) 2, 5, 10; (2) 7, 2, 3; (3) 14, 6, 4; (4) 8, 4, 2; (5) 7, 9, 4; (6) 1, 2.
Quadpot: £8.70

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Matterhorn

among the 10,000 racegoers was Christophe Soumillon.

The Belgium sat motionless in Pizzicato's saddle and put his nose in front inches before the winning post when taking the Ladbrokes 3-Year-Old Championships Stakes.

Victory was a first in Britain for the French trainer Fabrice Chappet who is no mug in his homeland where he won the 2017 French 1,000 Guineas with Precieuse and last year's Prix Jean Prat with Intellogent.

"Pizzicato is having a great year and came here in good form, after a win in a stakes race at Chantilly last time," said Chappet. "This was worth a try."

In the blink of an eye, while racegoers were bopping to the Trinidad and Tobago steel band and knocking back rum punches, Kachy had roared home to victory in the Betway Sprint Championships in the hands of Richard Kingscote.

Resembling a bullet, Kachy had his race in the bag after 100 yards.

"He's always been a horse with a fast reaction," said winning trainer Tom Dascombe. "I think he's a better horse this year and we will now have a crack in the Temple Stakes at Haydock."

Kachy certainly could not be mistaken for a camel yesterday.

■ ADAM KIRBY was confirmed as the winner of the official All-Weather Jockeys' Championship 2018/19, though he missed the big finale to partner a winner on turf at Bath.

SCALING THE HEIGHTS: Matterhorn shocked Wissahickon

HAYDOCK RACINGTV

JACKPOT: www.totepoolliveinfo.com

1.30 HURDLE SERIES FINAL HANDICAP HURDLE £30,950 (Class 2)2m 2f 191yds (14 Dec)

1 3-32141 **DUHALLOW GESTURE (35) (T)** A Honeyball 7 11-12 **R Dingle(5) 94**
2 152341 **BURN BABY BYRNE (19) (T)** E Williams 6 11-2 **Miss Isabel Williams(7) 86**
3 244415 **MARTILA (28)** Miss P Robson 7 11-2 **H Brooke 94**
4 24-4532 **AIMEE DE SIVOLA (57) (T)** N Williams 5 11-0 **Lizzie Kelly(3) 90**
5 710963 **AASLEAGH DAWN (15) (D)** G Cromwell (IRE) 6 10-13 **Jonathan Moore 84**
6 0-3162L **MAEBH (49)** J W Mullins 5 10-11 **D Sansom(5) 90**
7 543907 **KENTFORD HEIRESS (96) (D)** J W Mullins 9 10-10 **K Jones(3) 89**
8 128665 **MISS MASH (51)** H Daly 8 10-10 **R Johnson 89**
9 2447 **DUCHESS RAVENWAVES (17)** G Cromwell (IRE) 5 10-9 **J Bowen 86**
10 U2317-L **MISS TYNTE (35) (T)** D Pipe 7 10-8 **D Noonan 91**
11 P11324 **MISTY BLOOM (27) (D)** Emma Lavelle 6 10-7 **A Wedge 98**
12 351273 ● **BEYONDTEMPTATION (14) (D)** J Haynes 11 10-6 **D Cook★99**
13 12-1L33 **BIRCH VALE (37)** D McCain 7 10-3 **W T Kennedy 93**
14 144223 **RUBYTWO (23)** N Richards 7 10-0 **D McMenamin(7) 95**

BLINKERS: No. 10 TONGUE STRAP: No. 12
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 5, 6
HOOD: Nos. 3, 12.

SP FORECAST: 7-2 Duhallow Gesture, 7 Burn Baby Byrne, 15-2 Aimee De Sivola, 10 Birch Vale, Rubytwo, Misty Bloom, Martila, Maebh, Aasleagh Dawn, 12 Others.
2018: The Delray Munky 6-10-11, Bruce Lynn(7) 10-1 (I Jardine), 13 ran.

2.05 HANDICAP HURDLE £30,950 (2) 1m 7f 144yds (16) ITV4

1 0-82143 **RED TORNADO (40) (D)** C Fairhurst 7 11-12 **H Brooke 97**
2 114222 **CAUSE TOUJOURS (133) (D)** I Williams 7 11-12 **T J O'Brien 94**
3 L09122 **ARTHINGTON (54) (D)** J W Mullins 6 11-9 **K Jones(3) 95**
4 1-41711 **HIJRAN (51) (D)** Henry Oliver 6 11-7 **Jason Dixon(7) 97**
5 44-711L **THE GIPPER (35) (D) (T)** E Williams 9 11-7 **A Wedge 94**
6 472PP3 **BHUTAN (56) (D)** Jonjo O'Neill 6 11-7 **Jonjo O'Neill Jr.(3) 97**
7 264651 ● **CUBSWIN (17) (D)** N King 5 11-6 **R Johnson★99**
8 104-520 **CASA TALL (36)** T R George 5 11-6 **J J Burke 93**
9 3-26PL3 **PERUVIEN BLEU (19) (D) (T)** Mrs J Williams 7 11-6 **Chester Williams(7) 96**
10 11342L **BEACH BREAK (147) (D)** D McCain 5 11-5 **Mr T Gillard(7) 89**
11 235176 **MING DYNASTY (40) (D)** G Cromwell (IRE) 7 11-3 **J Bowen 93**
12 18-3698 **NAYATI (40) (D)** D McCain 5 11-2 **W T Kennedy 93**
13 371408 **CHIEFTAIN'S CHOICE (14) (D)** Kevin Frost 10 11-1 **G Sheehan 93**
14 8-3201L **PETERBOROUGH (93) (T)** E Williams 6 10-5 **C Ring(3) 93**
15 034114 **TIM ROCCO (19) (D)** Oliver Greenall 7 10-5 **P Brennan 97**
16 218337 **TEASER (20) (D) (T)** D Pipe 4 10-1 **D Noonan 94**

BLINKERS: Nos. 10, 13 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 6, 11, 15, 16
CHEEK PIECES: No. 16
HOOD: Nos. 8, 15.

SP FORECAST: 11-2 Hijran, 7 Cubswin, 15-2 Cause Toujours, 10 Casa Tall, Red Tornado, Bhutan, Peruvien Bleu, Tim Rocco, 12 Others.
2018: William Of Orange 7-10-6, Lorcan Murtagh(5) 8-1 (D McCain), 10 ran.
GUIDE: Jason Dixon gets on really well with **HIJRAN**, who has won three of her last four. She has been raised 6lb for her latest Ludlow (2m, gd) success, where **Teaser** was back in third, but the runner-up has since gone one better so the form is strong. **Cause Toujours** has been freshened up since a good second at Aintree (2mlf, sft) in December, whereas **Cubswin** has had a break of just over a fortnight since her Wincanton (1m7f, gd) triumph. **Bhutan** took a step back in the right direction on his second start for Jonjo O'Neill when third at Chepstow (2m, gd-sft).

THE SCOUT

1.30 Beyondtemptation
2.05 Cubswin
2.40 The Paddy Pie
3.15 Faithful Mount
3.50 Biddy The Boss
4.20 Dentley De Mee
4.55 Lough Derg Farmer

2.40 SERIES FINAL HANDICAP CHASE £30,950 (2) 3m 1f 125yds (8) ITV4

1 132240 **SUMKINDOFKING (37)** T R George 8 11-12 **Mr N George(7) 96**
2 135P5P **LOOSE CHIPS (20)** C Longsdon 13 11-8 **Paul O'Brien(3) 88**
3 132404 **UHLAN BUTE (20) (D)** Miss V Williams 11 11-6 **C Deutsch 94**
4 2P-79P3 **DUEL AT DAWN (27)** A Hales 9 11-5 **G Sheehan 88**
5 L-741L1 **QUARENTA (57)** Jonjo O'Neill 7 11-4 **S Twiston-Davies 98**
6 331122 ● **THE PADDY PIE (14) (C,F)** Mrs S Smith 6 11-2 **D Cook★99**
7 23-2443 **SALMANAZAR (28)** A King 11 10-11 **T Cannon 92**
8 42223U **MAHLERMADE (21)** A King 6 10-10 **W Hutchinson 90**

BLINKERS: Nos. 2, 4 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 8 CHEEK PIECES: No. 3.

SP FORECAST: 11-4 Quarenta, 7-2 The Paddy Pie, 11-2 Uhlan Bute, 6 Sumkindofking, 8 Salmanazar, Mahlermade, 10 Loose Chips, 12 Duel At Dawn.
2018: Potters Legend 8-11-0, Aidan Coleman 9-2 (Mrs L Wadham), 10 ran.
GUIDE: QUARENTA banished a moderate Newbury display from the memory when regaining the winning thread at Warwick (3m1f, gd), to confirm that he has a bright future at this sort of distance and beyond. **Mahlermade** was a fair way back in third on that occasion and having subsequently unshipped Wayne Hutchinson at Uttoxeter (3m, gd), Newbury (3m2f, gd-sft) third-placed **Salmanazar** might be the chief Alan King hope. **The Paddy Pie** has been such a model of consistency this campaign and although there is a slight doubt about his ability to see out this distance, he is a big danger if he does.

3.15 HANDICAP HURDLE £30,950 (2) 3m 58yds (12) ITV4

1 9-42L36 **BOREHAM BILL (21)** Emma Lavelle 7 11-12 **A Wedge 98**
2 121127 **TRIXSTER (42) (D)** T Vaughan 6 11-10 **Mr C Price(7) 98**
3 111-14P **COURT LIABILITY (59) (D) (T)** H Whittington 6 11-10 **G Sheehan 98**
4 132210 **SKIDOOSH (50) (D)** B Pauling 6 11-9 **L Williams(5) 98**
5 P9-9L25 **DIAMOND FORT (32)** F O'Brien 7 11-7 **C Brace(7) 97**
6 409-517 **DJANGO DJANGO (91) (D)** Jonjo O'Neill 6 11-7 **Jonjo O'Neill Jr.(3) 97**
7 23214L **NO HIDING PLACE (59) (D)** N Henderson 6 11-7 **N De Boinville 98**
8 128535 **LYGON ROCK (42)** H Daly 6 11-6 **R Johnson 96**
9 26-U472 **CREEP DESBOIS (47)** B Pauling 7 11-4 **D McMenamin(7) 98**
10 6/5LF22 ● **FAITHFUL MOUNT (24)** I Williams 10 10-9 **T J O'Brien★99**
11 4-372L7 **SLIDING DOORS (29)** I Williams 6 10-9 **Robert Dunne 98**
12 627-338 **SUNNYTAHLIATEIGAN (110)** I Williams 7 10-4 **E Austin(7) 92**

CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.

SP FORECAST: 5 Skidoosh, 6 Trixster, 13-2 Faithful Mount, Court Liability, 8 Django Django, 10 Boreham Bill, No Hiding Place, Lygon Rock, 12 Others.
2018: Culture De Sivola 6-10-9, Harry Cobden 16-1 (N Williams), 15 ran.
GUIDE: Skidoosh's excellent run of form came to an end when he burned favourite-backers' fingers at Newbury (3m, gd-sft) and there is a chance the handicapper has caught up with him now. Form figures would suggest something similar about **TRIXSTER**, but his latest seventh-placing came in the always-competitive EBF Final at Sandown (2m4f, sft), where he was just done for a turn of foot at the business end. The return to 3m can have the desired effect, while **Court Liability** has been given a break since flopping in a Doncaster (3m, gd) event won by **Skidoosh** in February. He was so progressive prior to it.

3.50 MARES' CHASE FINAL HANDICAP CHASE £30,950 (2) 2m 5f 127yds (7)

1 3UP171 **THE BAY BIRCH (28)** M Sheppard 8 12-0 **S Sheppard(3) 91**
2 3-4P4P2 **DAUPHINE EREINE (28) (T)** D Pipe 7 11-1 **D Noonan 88**
3 254L15 ● **BIDDY THE BOSS (28)** G Cromwell (IRE) 6 11-1 **J Bowen★99**
4 45-2U13 **MOLLY CAREW (44)** N Mulholland 7 11-1 **Robert Dunne 88**
5 118136 **STILL BELIEVING (28) (T)** E Williams 11 10-9 **M Bastyan(5) 87**
6 36P715 **SKEWIFF (42) (D) (T)** E Williams 7 10-6 **A Wedge 87**
7 341F42 **TROUBLED SOUL (17) (D,S)** F O'Brien 10 10-1 **P Brennan 95**

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 3 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 5, 7.

SP FORECAST: 10-3 The Bay Birch, 7-2 Troubled Soul, 4 Dauphine Ereine, 6 Skewiff, 7 Molly Carew, 8 Biddy The Boss, Still Believing.
2018: Rons Dream 8-11-10, Sean Bowen 7-2 Fav (P Bowen), 10 ran.

4.20 CHASE SERIES FINAL HANDICAP CHASE £30,950 (2) 2m 3f 203yds (8)

1 1-124L1 **PRINCETON ROYALE (20)** N King 10 11-12 **Jonjo O'Neill Jr.(3) 89**
2 1L1853 **VIVAS (20) (D)** C Longsdon 8 11-5 **J Nailor(7) 91**
3 3-172F3 **AIR NAVIGATOR (29)** T R George 8 11-0 **J J Burke 95**
4 324423 ● **DENTLEY DE MEE (20) (T)** N Williams 6 11-0 **Chester Williams(7) ★99**
5 322541 **ENOLA GAY (17) (D)** Miss V Williams 6 10-11 **G Sheehan 98**
6 211443 **A PLACE APART (133)** G Cromwell (IRE) 5 10-8 **J Bowen 92**
7 1PL331 **JARLATH (21) (D)** J W Mullins 8 10-6 **K Jones(3) 95**
8 L24241 **COPPER WEST (113) (D)** T R George 8 10-4 **P Brennan 96**

BLINKERS: No. 1
TONGUE STRAP: No. 2
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 4, 6, 7.

SP FORECAST: 7-2 Enola Gay, 4 Copper West, 9-2 Princeton Royale, 11-2 Jarlath, 7 Air Navigator, 8 Dentley De Mee, 10 A Place Apart, Vivas.
2018: Amber Gambler 8-10-0, Tom O'Brien 8-1 (I Williams), 8 ran.

4.55 BETWAY TIM MOLONY HANDICAP CHASE £12,512 (3) 3m 4f 97yds (7)

1 5U31/PP **ZIGA BOY (28)** A King 10 11-8 **T Bellamy 83**
2 634F4L **STRAIDNAHANNA (23)** Mrs S Smith 10 11-5 **H Brooke 91**
3 10-0PLL **MUSTMEETALADY (42) (C&D)** Jonjo O'Neill 9 11-3 **Jonjo O'Neill Jr.(3) 86**
4 P-2L0LP **MINELLA DADDY (61) (T)** P Bowen 9 11-3 **J Bowen 83**
5 551FU4 **I SEE YOU WELL (40)** J W Mullins 6 11-2 **Jamie Moore 96**
6 3223IL ● **LOUGH DERG FARMER (35) (F)** Mrs S Smith 7 11-2 **D Cook★99**
7 41-U2PL **ZERACHIEL (41) (C&D)** I Williams 9 11-0 **T J O'Brien 87**

BLINKERS: No. 4 TONGUE STRAP: No. 4
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 3, 7.

SP FORECAST: 5-2 Lough Derg Farmer, 4 I See You Well, 9-2 Ziga Boy, Mustmeetalady, 15-2 Straidnahanna, 10 Zerachiel, Minella Daddy.
2018: Zerachiel 8-10-10, Tom O'Brien 9-2 (I Williams), 9 ran.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Good. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2014-19):** Sam Twiston-Davies 18% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2014-19):** D McCain 15% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.30 Aasleagh Dawn (cheek pieces), 3.15 Court Liability (cheek pieces), Diamond Fort (cheek pieces), 3.50 Troubled Soul (cheek pieces), 4.20 Jarlath (cheek pieces). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 1.30 Rubytwo(hcp hdl). 2.40 The Paddy Pie(hcp ch). 3.15 Court Liability(hcp hdl), Django Django(hcp hdl), Lygon Rock, Skidoosh(hcp hdl), Sunnytahliateigan(hcp hdl). 3.50 Biddy The Boss(hcp ch), Molly Carew(hcp ch). 4.20 Dentley De Mee(hcp ch). **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Duchess Ravenwaves** (1.30), **Aasleagh Dawn** (1.30), **Ming Dynasty** (2.05), **Biddy The Boss** (3.50), **A Place Apart** (4.20) Ireland; **Aimee De Sivola** (1.30), **Peruvien Bleu** (2.05), **Dentley De Mee** (4.20) 241 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** No Qualifiers.

The Scots prepare for Ulster raid

By **The Scout**

ARCHIE Watson won the featured Queen's Cup at Musselburgh last year and has set his sights on the £60,000 prize again, this time with Ulster.

Watson has made a deeply impressive start to his training career and topped 100 winners in only his second full season in 2018.

ULSTER (3.35) won his first two starts after joining Watson from Godolphin as a maiden and it could have been four out of four but for being beaten in two photo-finishes at Kempton and Wolverhampton.

Another rich prize is up for grabs in the Scottish Sprint Cup 35 minutes earlier.

A MOMENTOFMADNESS (3.00) also makes the long journey from Lambourn. He has a very good record first time each season and his Portland Handicap win last September was a career-high for the Charlie Hills-trained speedster.

A quality jumps card at Haydock can see THE PADDY PIE (2.40) maintain his progress with another success.

Sue Smith's runner has a course win to his credit and comes into the race in fine form as he hasn't been out of the first two on his last four outings.

William Haggas, who picked up this week's Craven Stakes with Skardu, unleashes another promising type at Kempton in RAINBOW HEART (2.35, nap).

This filly made her debut last September when third in a maiden at Newmarket behind Qabala, who this week catapulted into 1,000 Guineas consideration when winning the Nell Gwyn Stakes. Rainbow Heart then trotted up by eight lengths at the same venue three weeks later.

BACKSTOP: Ulster can win at Musselburgh

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Brook still eyes Amir

From **David Anderson**

AMIR KHAN will be offered another chance to face Kell Brook if he loses to Terence Crawford in New York tonight.

Khan's three-fight promotional deal with Matchroom ends with this bout but Eddie Hearn wants him to re-sign with them for an autumn clash with rival Brook.

And Brook will be ringside to call out Khan, right, while Matchroom CEO Frank Smith says that fight would still be big box office.

"The Kell Brook fight is still a big one, regardless of what happens here," said Smith. "Amir has to focus on the job in hand, fighting one of the best pound-for-pound boxers in the world.

"But I believe it's still a massive fight for both guys and something we will not look past."

Khan has turned Brook down before but says he may do it if the terms are right.

"If I beat Crawford, there's a rematch clause in the contract and probably kills it," said Khan. "If I lose then it may be an option. If it makes sense, I'll take the fight. I was ready to fight him before and then Bob Arum offered me the Crawford fight."

WORLD OF SPORT

CRICKET

ALEX HALES is expected at England's training camp despite having pulled out of Nottinghamshire's One-Day Cup match against Lancashire at Trent Bridge yesterday for "personal reasons".

England start their three-day camp in Cardiff next Saturday and Hales is said to be confident of attending as he continues to rebuild his career after being banned and fined for his part in the Bristol brawl that saw Ben Stokes acquitted of affray.

SUPERBIKES

JASON O'HALLORAN drew first blood as he dipped under the British Championship lap record to set the pace at Silverstone yesterday.

The Australian McAMS Yamaha rider clocked a lap of 53.775secs in second practice, leading team-mate Taz Mackenzie by just 0.299secs.

He said: "I'm just growing in confidence on the bike and in the guys. I've only worked with them for about five or six days, so we're still learning."

ZOE BURN

10 to tackle

1. Which bowler took 4-7 as England beat West Indies in St Kitts to claim a T20 series whitewash?
2. Whose penalty gave Manchester City a 1-0 win at home to West Ham?
3. Plans to merge which two Welsh rugby teams were scrapped in March?
4. Which Italian footballer celebrated a goal for Marseille by uploading a video to Instagram on his phone?
5. Which Russian gymnast was women's artistic world champion in 2001 and 2003?
6. On which horse did Ruby Walsh win the Cheltenham Gold Cup in 2007 and 2009?
7. From which ground did Arsenal move to the Emirates Stadium in 2006?
8. Which Briton became the youngest world speedway champion in the modern GP competition in 2013?
9. Which Canadian city hosted the World Athletics Championships in 2001?
10. Which country did Eric 'the Eel' Moussambani represent at the 2000 Olympics?

RATINGS
0-3 Oh dear
4-6 Small beer
7-9 So near
10 Sporting

ANSWERS: 1 David Willey. 2 Sergio Aguero. 3 Ospreys and Scarlets. 4 Mario Balotelli. 5 Svetlana Khorkina. 6 Kauto Star. 7 Highbury. 8 Tai Woffinden. 9 Edmonton. 10 Equatorial Guinea.

CARLISLE RTV

1.40 HANDICAP HURDLE £4,874 (Class 4) 2m 1f (13 dec)

1 837 **ENDLESS CREDIT (33) (D)** Lucinda Egerton 9 12 ..... **A Blakemore(5)**
2 L9P **VISERION (102) (C&D)** D McCain 7 11 12 ..... **H Stock**
3 331 **LADY KYRIA (23)** P Kirby 5 11 11 ..... **T Dowson(3)**
4 535 **IZZY'S CHAMPION (23)** Miss L Russell 5 11 10 ..... **B Campbell(3)**
5 443 ● **GREEN ZONE (23)** Miss L Harrison 8 11 6 ..... **J Williamson(7)**
6 8-PP **CASTALIERA (30)** I Jardine 8 11 1 ..... **R Chapman(3)**
7 9PP **COURT IN MATERA (33)** O Greenall 5 10 11 ..... **R Turner(3)**
8 750 **ST GEORGE'S OVAL (41)** L Egerton 6 10 10 ..... **S Coltherd**
9 0PL **SYMBOLIC STAR (57)** F Murtagh 7 10 4 ..... **B Lynn(3)**
10 2P2 **LADY SAMBACK (27) (F)** M Barnes 7 10 3 **D Irving(3)**
11 521 **STRAIT RUN (F11) (C&D)** M Hammond 8 10 3 ..... **B Garritty(6)**
12 403 **KISUMU (200)** M Hammond 7 10 0 ..... **H Reed**
13 L4P **DREAM ON DREAMER (F3)** Lucinda Egerton 5 10 0 ..... **DOUBTFUL**

BLINKERS: No. 7 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 4, 8, 10, 11, 12
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 8, 9, 11, 12 HOOD: No. 3.
W-F: Green Zone (99); Lady Kyria (98); Endless Credit (96).
SP FORECAST: 10-3 Lady Kyria, 4 Strait Run, 5 Lady Samback, 11-2 Green Zone, 7 Izzy's Champion, 12 Others.

2.15 CHASE (NOV' LIMITED HANDICAP) £8,447 (3) 1m 7f 207yds (3)

1 241 ● **PEPPAY LE PUGH (8) (D,T)** D Skelton 8 11 8 ..... **B Andrews**
2 1L2 **WISHFULL DREAMING (17)** S England 8 10 9 ..... **J England**
3 2L0 **FRIARY GOLD (211)** Katy Price **7 10 3** ..... **B Poste**

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 2 CHEEK PIECES: No. 2.
W-Factor: Peppay Le Pugh (99); Wishfull Dreaming (97); Friary Gold (90).
SP FORECAST: 4-7 Peppay Le Pugh, 6-4 Wishfull Dreaming, 33 Friary Gold.
TRACK FACTS: GOING: Good. Right Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2014-19):** Craig Nichol 12% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2014-19):** K Dalgleish 14% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.40 Symbolic Star (cheek pieces), Court In Matera (blinkers), Izzy's Champion (tongue strap), 5.10 Toniengin (wind surgery), Connective (tongue strap). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 2.50 Forbidding(hcp). **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Staged Engagement** (2.50), **School Lane** (3.25), **Pegase Amour** (4.00), **Maureen's Star** (4.35) Ireland; **Pagero** (2.50), **Aquarian** (4.35), **Dartmoor** (5.10) 240 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 2.50 **Forbidding** from G Charlton to F Murtagh.

THE SCOUT

1.40 Green Zone
2.15 Peppay Le Pugh
2.50 Liva
3.25 School Lane
4.00 Presence Felt
4.35 Samtu
5.10 Dartmoor

2.50 MEMORIAL NOVICES' HURDLE £4,874 (4) 2m 1f (7)

1 121 **WHOSHOTTHESHERIFF (30)** P Kirby 5 11 12 **S Quinlan**
2 210 ● **LIVA (20) (F)** D McCain 4 11 7 ..... **D Jacob**
3 3LL **ELIXER (12)** F Murtagh 6 11 0 ..... **Craig Nichol**
4 44/L- **FORBIDDING (F185)** F Murtagh 6 11 0 ..... **C O'Farrell**
5 124 **STAGED ENGAGEMENT (243)** P E Collins (IRE) 6 11 0 ..... **A W Short(3)**
6 06 **NAMAZEE (12)** C Grant 4 10 9 ..... **C Bewley**
7 7L **PAGERO (56)(T)** Jonjo O'Neill 4 10 9 ..... **R McLernon**

HOOD: No. 3.
W-Factor: Liva (99); Pagero (98); Whoshotthesheriff (97).
SP FORECAST: 6-4 Liva, 7-4 Whoshotthesheriff, 5 Staged Engagement, 6 Pagero, 20 Namazee, 50 Forbidding, 66 Elixer.

3.25 RACING TV HANDICAP CHASE £8,122 (4) 2m 4f (4)

1 422 ● **SCHOOL LANE (27)** L Lennon (IRE) 6 11 12 ..... **A W Short(3)**
2 613 **GRAYSTOWN (25) (D)** W Coltherd 7 11 0 ..... **Sam Coltherd(3)**
3 4PP **OPECHEE (12)** L Egerton 8 10 11 ..... **A Blakemore(7)**
4 524 **INSTINGTIVE (34)** Miss L Harrison 8 10 6 ..... **R Chapman**

BLINKERS: No. 1.
W-F: School Lane (99); Instingtive (97); Graystown (94).
SP FORECAST: 4-6 School Lane, 5-2 Graystown, 6 Instingtive, 16 Opechee.

4.00 MEMORIAL HANDICAP HURDLE £8,122 (3) 3m 1f (4)

1 6L6 **TAWSEEF (28) (D)** D McCain 11 11 12 ..... **Miss A McCain(5)**
2 630 ● **PRESENCE FELT (115) (D)** J E Dixon 11 11 4 ..... **Mr J Dixon(7)**
3 502 **CAIRNSHILL (27) (D)** Kenny Johnson 8 10 11 ..... **S Quinlan**
4 063 **PEGASE AMOUR (35)** L Lennon (IRE) **8 10 0** ..... **A W Short(3)**

W-Factor: Presence Felt (99); Cairnshill (98); Tawseef (97).
SP FORECAST: 6-5 Cairnshill, 11-8 Pegase Amour, 7 Tawseef, 10 Presence Felt.

4.35 UPPERBY NOVICES' HCAP CHASE £5,198 (4) 2m 4f 198yds (8)

1 1F5 ● **SAMTU (29)** F Murtagh 8 12 6 ..... **B Garritty(7)**
2 315 **PETITE GANACHE (61)** N Richards 7 11 12 ..... **S Quinlan**
3 535 **AQUARIAN (21)(T)** Jonjo O'Neill 5 11 10 ..... **R McLernon**
4 88L **MAUREEN'S STAR (27)** L Lennon (IRE) 6 11 2 ..... **A W Short(3)**
5 5F2 **LOULOUMILLS (181)** M Barnes 9 10 10 **Mr D Hurst(10)**
6 P3P **EAGER TO KNOW (189)** M Hammond 9 10 7 **A Cawley**
7 L3L **NEWS FOR PASCAL (45)** S G West 11 10 6 ..... **J Kington**
8 657 **ROLL OF THUNDER (25)** J Walton **10 10 0** ..... **C O'Farrell**

TONGUE STRAP: No. 5 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 2, 3.
W-F: Samtu (99); News For Pascal (98); Petite Ganache (92).
SP FORECAST: 3 Petite Ganache, 7-2 Louloumills, Aquarian, 4 Samtu, 7 Eager To Know, 10 Maureen's Star, 25 News For Pascal, 50 Roll Of Thunder.

5.10 STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACE £2,599 (5) 2m 1f (4)

1 **TONICNGIN** K Dalgleish 5 11 2 ..... **N Moscrop(5)**
2 **CONNECTIVE** M Hammond 4 10 11 ..... **J Colliver**
3 ● **DARTMOOR(T)** Jonjo O'Neill 4 10 11 ..... **R McLernon**
4 **MANNOCHMORE** Miss L Russell 4 10 11 ..... **D R Fox**

TONGUE STRAP: No. 2.
W-F: Dartmoor (99); Connective (97); Mannochmore (90).
SP FORECAST: 13-8 Dartmoor, 5-2 Toniengin, 3 Mannochmore, 5 Connective.

VITAL STATISTICS

IN-FORM TRAINERS (last 10 days) Katy Price 100% (1 wins and 3 places from 4 runners), Christian Williams 67% (3/1/6), Emma Lavelle 67% (1/5/9), Sir M Stoute 64% (3/4/11), D Skelton 57% (12/8/35), J Gosden 56% (5/10/27), J Tate 56% (3/2/9), B Meehan 50% (1/3/8), N King 50% (2/3/10), R Varian 50% (7/6/26), S Dixon 50% (1/1/4).

IN-FORM JOCKEYS R P Downey 75% (1 wins and 2 places from 4 runners), Bridget Andrews 67% (2/2/6), Lorcan Williams 67% (5/1/9), Daryl Jacob 62% (2/6/13), Miss Abbie McCain 60% (1/2/5), Jack Garritty 58% (3/4/12), Gavin Sheehan 57% (5/3/14), Thomas Bellamy 57% (1/3/7), Benjamin Poste 56% (2/3/9), Harry Skelton 53% (11/5/30), A Tinkler 50% (1/1/4), Dane O'Neill 50% (2/4/12), M Griffiths 50% (2/0/4).

HOOF PRINTS

THE SCOUT (Peter Jones) rose to the occasion on the day of the All-Weather Championships at Lingfield.

Our top tipster opened it with 14-1 winner Goring in the apprentice handicap, closed the programme with 5-1 scorer Oh This Is Us and his nap, Kachy (4-9), made every yard of the running under a positive ride from Richard Kingscote before strolling to success by more than three lengths in the Sprint.

THE SCOUT'S SCOOP SIX HINTS

Leg 1 PORTH SWTAN (No 4)
(1.50, MUSSELBURGH)
Leg 2 CUBSWIN (No 7)
(2.05, HAYDOCK)
Leg 3 THE PADDY PIE (No 6)
(2.40, HAYDOCK)
Leg 4 A MOMENTOFMADNESS
(3.00, MUSSELBURGH)
Leg 5 FAITHFUL MOUNT (No 10)
(3.15, HAYDOCK)
Leg 6 ULSTER (No 8)
(3.35, MUSSELBURGH)

1.35 NOVICES' HURDLE £5,458 (Class 4) 2m 167yds (8 declared)

1 **5-1441** ● **MONSIEUR D'ARQUE (59)** D Skelton 5 11-6 ..... **H Skelton★99**
2 2-33T13 **RIVER BRAY (47)** V Dartnall 6 11-6 ..... **C Gethings 96**
3 **766I** **JACAMAR (17)** M Harris 4 11-1 ..... **J Best 98**
4 **ZULU (F362)** Miss G Haywood 5 11-0 ..... **K Edgar 77**
5 7 **LYFORD (123)** D Skelton 4 10-9 ..... **C Shoemark 83**
6 L9 **PURPLE JAZZ (40)** J Scott 4 10-9 ..... **A Johns 82**
7 **89**P0 **ZAMBINO (25)** M Harris 4 10-9 ..... **D Crosse 78**
8 575323 **POWERFUL SOCIETY (17)** M Gillard 4 10-2 ..... **James Davies 95**

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 6, 7.
SP FORECAST: 11-8 River Bray, 15-8 Monsieur D'Arque, 9-2 Jacamar, 10 Powerful Society, 20 Lyford, 25 Purple Jazz, 33 Zulu, 100 Zambino.

2.10 RACING PARTNERSHIP HANDICAP HURDLE £5,458 (4) 3m 2f 105yds (11)

1 **6/F**L3-6 **BUSTER MOON (57)** J Scott 7 11-12 ..... **N Scholfield 87**
2 P246L-P **SOUTHFIELD ROYALE (41)** M Bradstock 9 11-10 ..... **Miss L Bradstock(7) 91**
3 P5-2456 ● **SET LIST (14)** D Skelton 10 11-1 ..... **H Skelton★99**
4 6-2153L **FENLONS COURT (43) (F)** J W Mullins 7 11-0 ..... **J McGrath 92**
5 344354 **BALLYBOUGH NORA (11)** J Scott 6 11-0 ..... **M Griffiths 96**
6 L-22L65 **NIGHT GENERATION (16)** Miss J Du Plessis 7 10-13 ..... **J Best 85**
7 91II35 **LOVE THE LEADER (126) (D)** J Farrelly 11 10-13 ..... **L Aspell 88**
8 **7**0032L **APPLE MACK (27)** R Mitford-Slade 6 10-13 ..... **C Gethings 95**
9 50-L76L **LINGUINE (280)** D L Williams 9 10-12 ..... **D Crosse 87**
10 53PP43 **GENERAL ALLENBY (28) (T)** P Bowen 5 10-11 ..... **S Bowen 89**
11 P-727L9 **PAHASKA (52)** C Down 6 10-9 ..... **James Davies 84**

CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 6, 10 HOOD: No. 11.
SP FORECAST: 9-2 General Allenby, 5 Set List, 11-2 Love The Leader, 6 Buster Moon, 7 Ballybough Nora, Fenlons Court, 15-2 Apple Mack, 10 Linguine, 20 Others.

2.45 HANDICAP CHASE £6,433 (4) 3m 1f 170yds (6)

1 3422LU **CALIN DU BRIZAIS (32) (C&D)** N Hawke 8 11-12 ..... **Mr Kieren Buckley(7) 85**
2 163L4L **BRAMBLE BROOK (64)** C Tizzard 9 11-11 ..... **H Cobden 86**
3 34735P **LORD IN RED (14)** Christian Williams 7 11-6 ..... **A Johns 85**
4 7622L4 **LEX TALIONIS (21)** C Mann 6 11-3 ..... **H Bannister 93**
5 121ILL **POLISHED ROCK (126)** J Farrelly 9 11-1 ..... **L Aspell 85**
6 74352F ● **PRIMAL FOCUS (36)** C Williams 5 10-11 ..... **N Scholfield★99**

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 4, 5, 6 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 4, 5, 6.
SP FORECAST: 11-10 Primal Focus, 9-2 Bramble Brook, 11-2 Polished Rock, 6 Calin Du Brizais, 8 Lex Talionis, 16 Lord In Red.

THE SCOUT

1.35 Monsieur D'Arque
2.10 Set List
2.45 Primal Focus
3.20 Falco Blitz
3.55 Yorkist
4.25 Ericas Lad
5.00 Malangen

3.20 'NATIONAL HUNT' MAIDEN HURDLE £5,458 (4) 2m 2f 110yds (9)

1 4133 **BOOMARANG (49)** Emma Lavelle 5 11-2 ..... **L Aspell 98**
2 **PF4**/59L **CHAMPAGNE MIST (42)** A Ralph 7 11-2 ..... **L Edwards 82**
3 **3-02** **DONTCOUNTURCHIKENS (49)** D Dennis 5 11-2 ..... **A Coleman 85**
4 **5-9**05 **ELTON DES MOTTES (14)** D Skelton 5 11-2 ..... **H Skelton 79**
5 2P22 ● **FALCO BLITZ (30)** N Henderson 5 11-2 ..... **J McGrath★99**
6 8 **LUCKY FINNEGAN (322)** Ali Stronge 7 11-2 ..... **A Tinkler 64**
7 **4P4**883 **NOT GOING OUT (17)** M Gillard 5 11-2 ..... **James Davies 87**
8 **70** **STEADY AWAY (61)** Nicky Martin 5 11-2 ..... **M Griffiths 83**
9 **L4/** **RUSSIAN'S LEGACY (1032)** Miss G Haywood 9 10-9 **K Edgar 72**

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 7 HOOD: No. 4.
SP FORECAST: 4-5 Falco Blitz, 11-4 Boomarang, 10 Not Going Out, Dontcounturchikens, Elton Des Mottes, 25 Steady Away, 50 Others.

3.55 HANDICAP CHASE £11,956 (3) 2m 4f 216yds (6)

1 4ILL31 **DEAUVILLE DANCER (26) (C,D)** David Dennis 8 11-12 ..... **A Coleman 90**
2 L-1LL3L ● **YORKIST (30)** D Skelton 11 11-10 ..... **H Skelton★99**
3 L4P4L3 **CUT THE CORNER (21) (C&D)** A Ralph 11 11-9 ..... **L Edwards 89**
4 4-23262 **FOX APPEAL (19) (C&D)** Emma Lavelle 12 11-8 ..... **P Cowley(5) 88**
5 3L4337 **LORD BRYAN (13) (D) (T)** P Bowen 8 10-12 ..... **S Bowen 87**
6 32I2-54 **DUHALLOW LAD (28)** A Jones 7 10-0 ..... **B J Powell 84**

VISOR: No. 4 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5.
SP FORECAST: 9-4 Deauville Dancer, 4 Lord Bryan, 9-2 Duhallow Lad, Yorkist, 5 Fox Appeal, 10 Cut The Corner.
TRACK FACTS: GOING: Good. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2014-19):** Tom Scudamore 15% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2014-19):** C Tizzard 13% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.35 Zambino (tongue strap), 2.10 Pahaska (wind surgery), 2.45 Primal Focus (cheek pieces, tongue strap), 4.25 The Boola Bee (wind surgery), 5.00 Can You Believe It (hood), Starlit Night (wind surgery), Mighty Missile (wind surgery), Chasing Headlights (blinkers), Stand By Me (cheek pieces), Grande Waltz (cheek pieces, tongue strap, wind surgery), Hot Smoked (blinkers). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 2.45 Primal Focus(hcp ch). 3.20 Boomarang, Falco Blitz. 3.55 Duhallow Lad(hcp ch), Lord Bryan(hcp ch). 4.25 Ericas Lad(hcp ch), Lizzie Langton(hcp ch). **LONGEST TRAVELLER: General Allenby** (2.10) & **Lord Bryan** (3.55) 211 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 1.35 **Zulu** from B Millman to Miss G Haywood. 3.20 **Lucky Finnegan** from I Furtado to Ali Stronge. 5.00 **Grande Waltz** from Andrew McNamara in Ireland to D Skelton.

NEWTON ABBOT SKYSPORTSRACING

4.25 NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE £4,938 (5) 2m 4f 216yds (9)

1 86-7708 **OLD HARRY ROCKS (21)** Mrs S Leech 7 12-2 ..... **C Gethings 86**
2 66P22L **INIESTA (33)** M Blake 8 11-12 ..... **D Bass 84**
3 344/442 **BIG CHIP AND PIN (14)** Christian Williams 7 11-11 ..... **N Scholfield 87**
4 6-284P0 **THE MAJOR (52)** Kayley Woollacott 6 11-4 ..... **B J Powell 83**
5 1P5333 **LIZZIE LANGTON (26)** C Tizzard 8 11-3 ..... **H Cobden 86**
6 778664 **MR LANDO (32)** J Farrelly 10 10-9 ..... **L Aspell 90**
7 5P5UI2 ● **ERICAS LAD (27)** Miss J Du Plessis 8 10-8 ..... **J Best★99**
8 933PP7 **THE BOOLA BEE (75)** N Hawke 6 10-7 ..... **T Buckley(7) 77**
9 23PPP/L- **ROYBUOY (575)** D D Scott 12 10-0 ..... **D Hiskett(5) 78**

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 4, 5, 6 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 7 HOOD: No. 8.
SP FORECAST: 5-2 Lizzie Langton, 7-2 Ericas Lad, 4 Big Chip And Pin, 6 Mr Lando, 15-2 Iniesta, 12 Old Harry Rocks, The Major, 20 The Boola Bee, 50 Roybuoy.

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1 3F47I1 ● **MALANGEN (7) (D)** D Pipe 4 11-13 ..... **T Scudamore★99**
2 6LL06 **JOEY STEEL (14)** Christian Williams 6 11-9 ..... **N Scholfield 83**
3 8-F0L44 **SECRET MELODY (21)** S-J Davies 6 11-6 ..... **C Hammond(3) 86**
4 8LLL **CAN YOU BELIEVE IT (21)** Nicky Martin 6 11-5 ..... **M Griffiths 83**
5 9LL-36P **STOLBERG (13)** D L Williams 11 11-5 ..... **R Patrick(3) 98**
6 L679L6 **SEHAYLI (16)** J Farrelly 6 11-5 ..... **L Aspell 88**
7 85IP50 **ATLANTIC GREY (16) (C)** J Frost 6 11-4 ..... **B J Powell 89**
8 50P672 **HOT SMOKED (33)** R Walford 6 11-2 ..... **J Best 94**
9 776-04L **LOS CERRITOS (48)** M Harris 7 11-0 ..... **James Davies 85**
10 0-60068 **GRANDE WALTZ (281)** D Skelton 6 10-13 ..... **H Skelton 83**
11 709P0-6 **MIGHTY MISSILE (339) (D)** B Barr 8 10-10 ..... **P Cowley(5) 83**
12 373741 **FLANAGANS FIELD (30)** B J Llewellyn 11 10-8 ..... **R Williams(3) 92**
13 **31**/0-6LP **STAND BY ME (40)** A Jones 9 10-7 ..... **J McGrath 84**
14 43L41I/ **GINJO (1007)** B J Llewellyn 9 10-6 ..... **Mr C Todd(7) 87**
15 58L-052 **TOP OF THE ROCKS (30)** Mrs K Stephens 6 10-3 ..... **D Crosse 96**
16 I-5PLPL **KARL MARX (16) (D)** M Gillard 9 10-1 ..... **– 82**
17 322PL7 **CHASING HEADLIGHTS (13)** A Dunn 7 10-0 ..... **J Bargary 83**
18 P-8067L **STARLIT NIGHT (231)** C Down 7 10-0 ..... **Page Fuller(3) 76**

BLINKERS: Nos. 8, 12, 17 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 9, 10, 11, 15 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 HOOD: No. 4.
SP FORECAST: 2 Malangen, 9-2 Flanagans Field, 5 Grande Waltz, 15-2 Top Of The Rocks, 8 Hot Smoked, 12 Ginjo, 14 Secret Melody, 16 Joey Steel, 25 Others.

‘I’ll do naked cartwheels if I win again’

By **Hector Nunns**

MARK WILLIAMS has raised the terrifying prospect of nude cartwheels if he repeats last year’s stunning Crucible triumph.

The 44-year-old Welshman showed bare-faced cheek by doing his winner’s press conference in the buff 12 months ago, honouring a rash promise earlier in the event.

And world No3 Williams, who starts his bid for a fourth Betfred World Championship success today against Martin Gould, has been partying hard ever since. After a year of drinking, kebabs, nights out, golf, cards and trips abroad, Williams even planned to spend last night preparing for his defence in a casino.

“A few people appreciated me keeping my daft promise to do the press conference naked if I won,” he said. “I had to do it, I had said it, I had no choice. I only wore the towel because Barry Hearn made me.

“But if you open your mouth, you have to do it – that’s me anyway, even if not everyone would have honoured it.

“And apparently I also said that if I did it again this year I would top that by doing naked cartwheels out there. Who cares if it happens. For £500,000 you wouldn’t worry about it!

“If somehow I won the World Championship again I think I would take the whole season off. I have enjoyed myself so much, it has the been the best time of my life. I can’t believe the 12 months has passed so quickly, it is frightening. I said I would enjoy it, and I did.

“I have done the lot. Nights out, drinking, kebabs, cards, golf, New York, Spain, Dubai – probably the best place I have ever been – everything bar snooker. Winning that third world title has made my career, even if I never win another thing. I did something that no one – including myself – thought I could do.

“Looking back now, I just remember being so nervous towards the end of the semi-final against Barry Hawkins. It was a horrible feeling.

“That night I was in a kebab shop at about 3am thinking I would be absolutely knackered for the final the next day, I didn’t go to bed until 5am.

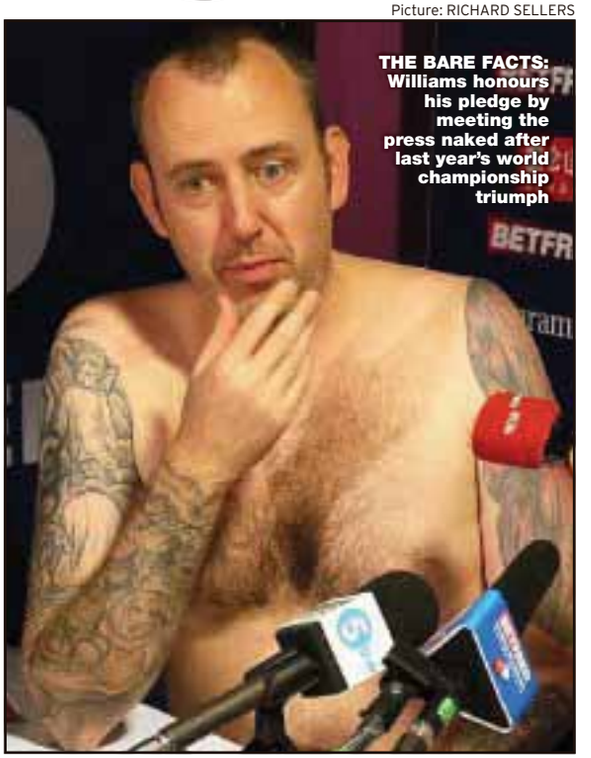
“But then I found myself 4-0 up and the final against John Higgins ended up being one of the best matches I have ever been involved in. I don’t think I have been given enough respect by World Snooker for the achievement. There was the thing my wife put on Twitter about not being on the front of the new video game.

“But it’s not just that. Maybe I should have been man enough to say what she said six months ago. I have been dragged to China to play held-over matches and then put on outside tables.

“They have obviously got some grief with me, but I don’t know what it is and other players have said the same.

“My form has suffered over the season as a result of taking it easy. But for the last six months I have been just looking forward to walking out tomorrow as defending champion.”

Picture: RICHARD SELLERS



THE BARE FACTS: Williams honours his pledge by meeting the press naked after last year’s world championship triumph

FIVE TO WATCH AT CRUCIBLE

RONNIE O’SULLIVAN
(43 years old, Eng, world No1, five-time champion)
As so often, the man to beat. A spectacular season already, with five wins from 10 events, O’Sullivan is making history almost every time he plays. Focus is the key to a possible sixth crown.

JUDD TRUMP
(29, Eng, No7, finalist)
The last time Trump, right, arrived after a season as good as this one, he was turfed out in the first round. Looking a better and a more rounded player now, he needs a first world title to prove he is the real deal.

NEIL ROBERTSON
(37, Aus, No4, 2010 champion)
Back to his best form in recent months with three titles and three finals. No one would be surprised if he came through the top half.

KYREN WILSON
(27, Eng, No8, semi-finalist)
Blessed with an excellent temperament – vital to do well at the Crucible – Wilson is looking to go further than last year’s semi-final. Should have the measure of debutant Scott Donaldson first up.

ZHAO XINTONG
(22, Chi, No67, debutant)
The first-timer is an exciting prospect and dangerous opponent. It is all about if he settles, and three-time champion Mark Selby must play better than in some recent events to beat him in the first round.

SPORT IN BRIEF

CRICKET

ROYAL LONDON ONE-DAY CUP - GROUP A—Derbyshire v Northamptonshire (Derby): Derbyshire 268-6 (50.0 overs; B A Godleman 87). Northamptonshire 215 (43.5 overs; L Procter 50no; A L Hughes 4-44). *Derbyshire (2pts) beat Northamptonshire by 53 runs.*

GROUP A—Leicestershire v Durham (Emirates Riverside): Leicestershire 233-9 (50.0 overs). Durham 234-4 (45.3 overs; C T Bancroft 118no). *Durham (2pts) beat Leicestershire by 6 wickets.*

GROUP A—Nottinghamshire v Lancashire (Trent Bridge): Nottinghamshire 417-7 (50.0 overs; J M Clarke 139). Lancashire 406-9 (50.0 overs; D J Vilas 166, S J Croft 110; J L Pattinson 5-61). *Nottinghamshire (2pts) beat Lancashire by 11 runs.*

GROUP A—Warwickshire v Yorkshire (Edgbaston): Warwickshire 270-8 (50.0 overs). Yorkshire 270-9 (50.0 overs). *Warwickshire (1pts) tied with Yorkshire (1pts).*

GROUP B—Middlesex v Essex (Chelmsford): Middlesex 366-8 (50.0 overs; D J Malan 95, G F B Scott 63, N R T Gubbins 56). Essex 328 (49.2 overs; V Chopra 127, T Westley 77; N A Sowter 6-62). *Middlesex (2pts) beat Essex by 38 runs.*

GROUP B—Glamorgan v Hampshire (The Ageas Bowl): Glamorgan 292-9 (50.0 overs; G G Wagg 68, D L Lloyd 68). Hampshire 293-3 (41.5 overs; T P Alsop 130no, J M Vince 95). *Hampshire (2pts) beat Glamorgan by 7 wickets.*

GROUP B—Somerset v Kent (Taunton): Somerset 358-9 (50.0 overs; T Banton 107, C Overton 66no, L Gregory 51). Kent 94 (27.0 overs; C Overton 5-18). *Somerset (2pts) beat Kent by 264 runs.*

GROUP B—Surrey v Sussex (Hove): Surrey 274-9 (50.0 overs; B T Foakes 64, W G Jacks 56; Mir Hamza 4-43). Sussex.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Betfred Super League

HULL ..... 56 HULL K R 12
Hull—T: Connor, Logan (3), Minichiello, Westerman, Kelly, Paea, Wynne. **G**: Sneyd (10).
Hull K R—T: J. Keinhorst, Hall. **G**: Hall (2).

LEEDS..... 38 HUDDERSFIELD... 18
Leeds—T: Lolohea, Donaldson, Dwyer, Myler, T. Briscoe, Handley. **G**: Sutcliffe (6), Lolohea.
Huddersfield—T: Uate, O’Brien, McIntosh. **G**: Russell (3).

WARRINGTON ..... 12 SALFORD 36
Warrington—T: Austin, Goodwin. **G**: Ratchford (2).
Salford—T: Welham, Lussick, Murray, Lui, Bibby. **G**: Inu (8).

WIGAN..... 10 ST HELENS..... 36
Wigan—T: Hardaker, Williams. **G**: Hardaker.
St Helens—T: Roby, Grace (3), Makinson, Coote. **G**: Coote (6).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Helens	11	10	0	1	327	144	20
Warrington	11	8	0	3	326	215	16
Castleford	10	7	0	3	248	228	14
Wakefield	11	6	0	5	275	238	12
Catalans	10	6	0	4	167	226	12
Salford	11	5	0	6	262	230	10
Hull	9	5	0	4	227	243	10
Huddersfield	11	4	0	7	212	274	8
Hull K R	11	4	0	7	207	296	8
Wigan	10	3	0	7	210	237	6
London B	11	3	0	8	164	321	6
Leeds	10	2	0	8	220	295	4

Betfred Championship—Barrow 26 Toronto Wolfpack 52, Dewsbury L Batley L, Featherstone L York L, Halifax 26 Bradford 33, Sheffield L Toulouse L, Swinton 36 Rochdale 22, Widnes 30 Leigh 12.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Toronto	10	9	0	1	328	143	18
Toulouse	9	7	0	2	264	126	14
York	8	6	0	2	199	118	12
Sheffield	8	6	0	2	220	159	12
Bradford	10	6	0	4	187	171	12
Leigh	10	5	0	5	241	196	10
Halifax	10	5	0	5	231	289	10
Featherstone	9	4	0	5	226	186	8
Dewsbury	8	2	1	5	154	176	5
Swinton	10	2	0	8	199	309	4
Batley	9	2	0	7	134	246	4
Barrow	10	1	1	8	158	339	3
Widnes	9	7	0	2	269	152	2
Rochdale	8	1	0	7	106	306	2

* Widnes deducted 12 points

TODAY’S DIARY

(3pm unless stated)

BOXING
British & Commonwealth Lightweight Titles: Joe Cordina v Andy Townend (O2 Arena, London).
WBO World Welterweight Title: Terence Crawford v Amir Khan (Madison Square Garden, New York).

SNOOKER
Betfred World Championships (Crucible Theatre, Sheffield).

RUGBY UNION
European Rugby Champions Cup Semi-Finals (3pm): Saracens v Munster.
European Rugby Challenge Cup Semi Final (5.30): Clermont Auvergne v Harlequins (8pm), La Rochelle v Sale.
Greene King IPA Championship (3pm): Doncaster v Coventry (2.30), Ealing Trailfinders v Bedford, Hartpury RFC v London Scottish (2.30).

TOMORROW’S DIARY

(3pm unless stated)

CRICKET
Royal London One-Day Cup - Group A: Derbyshire v Nottinghamshire (Derby, 11am), Leicestershire v Worcestershire (Grace Road, 11am), Northamptonshire v Warwickshire (Northampton, 11am), Yorkshire v Lancashire (Emerald Headingley, 11am).
Royal London One-Day Cup - Group B: Glamorgan v Somerset (11am). Kent v Sussex (Canterbury, 11am). Middlesex v Gloucestershire (11am).

RUGBY UNION
European Rugby Champions Cup Semi-Finals (3.15): Leinster v Toulouse.
Greene King IPA Championship (2.30): Cornish Pirates v Yorkshire Carnegie.

EXPRESS | GARDENING

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AMAZING: Grace scores his side's second try

Wigan taunted on and off field

WIGAN	10
ST HELENS	36

By **Julie Stott**

REGAN GRACE was the tormentor-in-chief as Saints embarrassed their arch rivals.

St Helens fans wore Shaun Edwards masks and taunted the home support with chants about the Wales assistant coach turning his back on them.

And the hammering continued on the field.

Saints, who went four points clear at the top, were better in every aspect. Winger Grace led the way with three tries and coach Justin Holbrook said: "It was great to win. We hadn't won here in 10 years."

Wigan's eighth defeat in 11 keeps them third-bottom and coach Adrian Lam said: "We weren't aggressive enough and never in it.

"When you're playing the best team in the competition you've got to be squeaky clean but we came up with errors, did not carry strongly enough and we were down in some effort.

"We've got to stick together through this period and make sure we get through it."

Injury-hit Wigan lost two more players. Tom Davies suffered an injury that saw his left ankle pointing the wrong way while Jake Shorrocks was carried off with his neck in a brace.

Wigan, whose tries came from Zak Hardaker and George Williams, still looked in it at half-time at only 18-10 down.

But they were blown away in the second half as Grace got his third try and Tommy Makinson and Lachlan Coote scored.

James Roby crossed for Saints' other try.

Logan hands out Hull of a beating

ROUND-UP

LEE RADFORD hailed his side after Jake Connor's skill and Jack Logan's hat-trick helped **Hull FC** exact revenge against **Hull KR** with a record 56-12 victory yesterday.

England stand-off Connor laid the foundations with an accomplished first-half display before Radford's team cut loose after the break.

"It's always nice to beat them in that manner, particularly after the first-round loss and the way that panned out," said Radford.

Winger Logan's treble capped a record-breaking afternoon, with the scoreline the biggest in 234 Hull derbies, while Marc Sneyd's 10 goals and 20 points were also new marks.

Elsewhere, **Leeds** climbed off the foot of the table by thrashing **Huddersfield** 38-18 for only their third win, while Robert Lui inspired **Salford** to a stunning 36-12 win against **Warrington** at the Halliwell Jones stadium.

The influential stand-off scored one try and had a hand in three others.

Fallen heroes will relish shot at redemption

Lions legend Brian O'Driscoll tells ALEX SPINK he expects star fly-halves to put Six Nations woe behind them and ignite their clubs this weekend

BRIAN O'DRISCOLL believes this weekend's Heineken Cup semi-finals offer the perfect stage for Owen Farrell and Johnny Sexton to silence their critics.

The pair of playmakers endured poor Six Nations campaigns by their standards and have barely taken the field since – Farrell just once, Sexton not at all.

Farrell has become a father but will still be mad at the way his game unravelled in England's final match against Scotland. Sexton, the world player of the year in 2018, will be no less frustrated by Ireland's dismal title defence and his lacklustre role in it.

This weekend does not offer redemption in national colours, but the chance to reach the biggest club rugby game in the northern hemisphere is the next best thing.

Farrell's Saracens play Munster today in Coventry with the winner getting a shot at either Sexton's Leinster or Toulouse in the Heineken Cup final at St James' Park in Newcastle on May 11.

And Lions legend O'Driscoll, who is predicting a Saracens-Leinster final, does not expect either fly-half to pass up the chance to show their quality.

"Biggest games appeal to the biggest players and there aren't many bigger players than these two," said the Irishman, right, a three-time Heineken Cup winner.

FINAL FOUR
Saracens v Munster
Today 3pm. TV: BT Sport 2
Leinster v Toulouse
Tomorrow 3.15pm. TV: BT Sport 2

"They will be the first to admit that their standards haven't been at the level they would expect of themselves, but that calibre of player doesn't stay in a rut for long.

"Players of that calibre back their abilities. They like proving people wrong when people think there's an issue.

"They like putting things right and, to a degree, putting people back in their box.

"They're able to effect change. That's why they like goalkicking under pressure and putting themselves in uncomfortable positions, because they're different to a lot of other players out there.

"That's why they thrive and excel at the highest level."

Farrell and Sexton each sat out the quarter-finals, with the Englishman absent from Sarries' trouncing of Glasgow to attend the birth of his son while his Dublin-born counterpart sat out the holders' defeat of Ulster with a quad injury.

POINT TO PROVE: Sexton, left, and Farrell are tipped to bounce back in the semi-finals

Saracens, who also welcome back captain Brad Barritt and England prop Mako Vunipola, have met Munster twice before in the semi-finals. They lost 18-16 at the same Ricoh Arena venue in 2008 but avenged that with a 26-10 victory at the Aviva Stadium two years ago.

On both occasions the winner went on to lift the cup.

Farrell is familiar with three of the Munstermen – Conor Murray, Peter O'Mahony and CJ Stander – from touring with the Lions in New Zealand two years ago and knows what is coming from the former champions.

Farrell said: "They are brilliant lads – good, honest, hard-working lads – and that shows in the way they play.

"They are good players, brilliant to play with and good blokes off the field as well. They are big within their team so we have got to be ready.

"You don't get much bigger than European semi-finals against a club like Munster, and as much as they love playing in these big games, so do we. We have not done too badly in them before."

Sarries will have Maro Itoje and George Kruis at lock, Billy Vunipola at No8 and Jamie George at hooker. Scrum-half Richard Wigglesworth, who is returning from a groin problem, will make his 100th European appearance if he comes off the bench.

● *Brian O'Driscoll is an HSBC 7s ambassador.*

Kidney warns upbeat Irish the hard work starts now

By **Adam Hathaway**

LONDON IRISH are back in the Premiership after a 46-7 win at Richmond, but boss Declan Kidney has told them the tough stuff lies ahead.

Irish scored eight tries to claim the Championship title. They have the likes of Sean O'Brien coming in next season and are moving to a new ground in Brentford in 15 months.

Kidney said: "We know we have to go up a percentage in strength and conditioning and skill level and how we perform the little things that matter in a match.

"We want to be in the Premiership when we move to Brentford in 15 months so staying in the league is a big thing."

❑ ENGLAND centre Ben Te'o has confirmed he will leave Worcester in the summer.

UP: Irish's Ollie Hoskins and Ben Meehan celebrate

RESULTS ALL YESTERDAY'S FOOTBALL ACTION

POOLS GUIDE

TODAY

(3pm unless stated)

Premier League
2 AFC Bournemouth v Fulham
4 Chelsea v Burnley ....MON
6 Huddersfield v Watford
7 Man City v Tottenham (12.30pm)
8 Newcastle v Southampton (5.30pm)
(Live on BT Sport 1)
9 West Ham v Leicester
10 Wolves v Brighton

Sky Bet League One
Accrington Stanley v Luton (5.30pm)
(Live on Sky Sports Football)

Ladbrokes Scottish Premiership
Hamilton v Motherwell
Hearts v Rangers (12noon)
(Live on Sky Sports Football)
Kilmarnock v Aberdeen
Livingston v St Mirren
St Johnstone v Dundee

Ladbrokes Scottish Championship
11 Ayr v Ross County ....FRI, VOID
12 Falkirk v Morton
13 Inverness CT v Dundee Utd
14 Partick v Alloa
15 Queen of South v Dunfermline

Ladbrokes Scottish League One
17 Dumbarton v East Fife
18 Montrose v Airdrieonians
19 Stenhousemuir v Forfar
20 Stranraer v Brechin

Ladbrokes Scottish League Two
21 Albion v Edinburgh City
22 Clyde v Berwick
23 Elgin v Peterhead
24 Queen's Park v Annan Athletic
25 Stirling v Cowdenbeath

Vanarama National League North: Alfreton Tn v FC United of Manchester, Chorley v Stockport County, Hereford FC v AFC Telford, Nuneaton Borough v Altrincham.

Vanarama National League South: Billericay v Hemel Hempstead, Eastbourne Borough v Dartford, Oxford City v Slough, Truro City v Gloucester, Wealdstone v Dulwich, Weston-S-Mare v Hampton & Richmond.

The Evo-Stik League Southern Premier Central Division: Banbury v Bedworth Utd, Biggleswade Tn v Halesowen, Coalville Tn v AFC Rushden & Diamonds, Kettering v Barwell, Lowestoft Tn v Stratford Tn, Needham Market v St Ives Tn, Redditch v Hitchin Tn, Royston Tn v Rushall Olympic, St Neots Tn v King's Lynn Tn, , Tamworth v Leiston. **Bostik Prem:** Brightlingsea Regent v Leatherhead, , Dorking Wanderers v Bognor Regis Tn, Folkestone v Haringey Borough, Harlow v Enfield Tn, Kingstonian v AFC Hornchurch, Lewes v Bishop's Stortford, Potters Bar Tn v Corinthian Casuals, Whitehawk v Merstham, Wingate & Finchley v Margate, .

Evo-Stik North Prem: Bamber Bridge v Matlock Tn, Basford Utd v Marine, Buxton v Workington, Farsley Celtic v Hyde United, , Lancaster City v Nantwich Tn, North Ferriby Utd v Mickleover Sports, Scarborough Athletic v Grantham, Stafford Rgrs v South Shields, Stalybridge v Warrington Tn, Witton Albion v Whitby.

The Evo-Stik League Southern Premier South Division: Basingstoke v Frome Tn, Hartley Wintney v Beaconsfield, Hendon v Taunton, Kings Langley v Dorchester, Merthyr Tn v Farnborough, Met Police v Poole Tn, Salisbury FC v Walton Casuals, Staines Tn v Gosport Borough, Tiverton v Harrow, Weymouth v Chesham Utd, Wimborne Tn v Swindon Supermarine.

Breedon Highland League: Cove Rangers v Clachnacuddin, Fort William v Forres Mechanics, Huntly v Wick Academy, Nairn County v Formartine United, Rothes v Keith, Strathspey Thistle v Buckie Thistle.

Geosonic Lowland Football League: BSC Glasgow v East Stirling, , Dalbeattie Star v Vale Of Leithen, Edinburgh Univ v Whitehill Welfare, Edusport Academy v Stirling University, Gretna 2008 v Gala Fairydean, Kelty Hearts v East Kilbride, Spartans v Cumbernauld Colts.

German League
26 Augsburg v Stuttgart (2.30pm)
27 B Munich v W Bremen (2.30pm)
28 B Leverkusen v Nurnberg (2.30pm)
29 B M'gladbach v RB Leipzig (5.30pm)
Mainz v F Dusseldorf (2.30pm)
32 Schalke 04 v Hoffenheim (7.30pm)
Wolfsburg v E Frankfurt (2.30pm) ....MON

French League
33 Dijon v Rennes (7pm) ....FRI, VOID
34 Guingamp v Marseille (4pm)
35 Lyon v Angers (7pm) ....FRI, VOID
36 Nantes v Amiens (7pm) ....SUN
37 Nice v Caen (7pm)
38 Nimes v Bordeaux (7pm)
40 Strasbourg v Montpellier (7pm)

Dutch League
43 Emmen v Utrecht (5.30pm)
44 Feyenoord v AZ (7.45pm)
46 Groningen v Ajax (1.30pm)
48 VVV v De Graafschap (7.45pm)
49 Vitesse v PEC Zwolle (6.45pm)

TOMORROW

Premier League
1 Arsenal v Crystal Palace (4pm)
3 Cardiff v Liverpool (4pm)
(Live on Sky Sports Premier League)
5 Everton v Manchester Utd (1.30pm)
(Live on Sky Sports Premier League)

Ladbrokes Scottish Premiership
Hibernian v Celtic (12.30pm)
(Live on Sky Sports Football)

Ladbrokes Scottish League One
16 Arbroath v Raith (4.05pm)
(Live on BBC Alba)

German League
30 Freiburg v B Dortmund (2.30pm)
31 Hertha Berlin v Hannover 96 (5pm).

French League
Nantes v Amiens (2pm)
PSG v Monaco (8pm)
39 Reims v St Etienne (4pm)
41 Toulouse v Lille (2pm)

Dutch League
42 Excelsior v Willem II (11.15pm)
45 Fortuna Sittard v NAC (1.30pm)
47 PSV v ADO Den Haag (3.45pm)

LEAGUE ONE

Bradford are down and out

BRADFORD have been relegated for the first time since 2013.

A 2-0 defeat at **Coventry** stretched the Bantams' losing run to seven matches – their worst stretch since 2002.

Jordy Hiwula and Bright Enobakhare were on target while Bradford were reduced to 10 men on the stroke of half-time when Nathaniel Knight-Percival was shown a second yellow.

Portsmouth kept up their pursuit of automatic promotion after Matt Clarke's late strike snatched a 2-1 win at **Burton**. **Oxford** ended **Charlton's** 11-game unbeaten run to deal Lee Bowyer's side a blow with a 2-1 win at the Kassam Stadium. Both sides finished with 10 men.

Walsall snatched a 1-1 draw with relegation rivals **Southend**, as did **Bristol Rovers** against **AFC Wimbledon**.

KNIGHT-PERCIVAL: Red

JONES: Match-winner

Jones spoils Lincoln party

LEAGUE TWO

LINCOLN missed the chance to be crowned champions after their 19-game unbeaten run ended with a 1-0 defeat at **Carlisle**.

The Imps, who secured promotion last Saturday, would have guaranteed top spot with victory at Brunton Park. But after having defender Jason CJ Hamilton and Malvind Benning on target.

Bury dropped out of the automatic promotion places following a 3-1 loss at play-off hopefuls **Newport**.

MK Dons moved above Bury and into third spot by beating **Notts County** 2-1.

Shackell sent off for two bookings, a goal from Mike Jones with 14 minutes left inflicted a first defeat since Boxing Day.

Mansfield's 4-0 win over **Morecambe** pushed them to second, with Jacob Mellis, Krystian Pearce,

NON LEAGUE

Ladbrokes Championship

AYR (L) ....L ROSS CNTY (L)...L
Miller 12

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ross County	33	19	8	6	54	30	65
Dundee Utd	33	17	8	8	45	39	59
Ayr	32	14	8	10	46	32	50
Inverness CT	33	12	14	7	45	37	50
Dunfermline	33	11	8	14	32	36	41
Alloa	33	10	8	15	36	48	38
Morton	33	8	13	12	32	45	37
Queen of South	33	8	11	14	39	40	35
Falkirk	33	8	11	14	34	43	35
Partick	32	9	7	16	36	49	34

Vanarama National Lge

AFC FYLDE (1)....1 BARNET (0).....0
Rowe 21 — **Att: 1,489**

BOREHAM W (1) . 2 SALFORD C (2)...3
Gabriel 26 (pen), Murtagh 70 — Piergianni 6, Hogan 22, Green 88
Att: 854

BROMLEY (0)..... 0 SOLIHULL M (1) . 2
Osborne 15, Wright 59
Att: 1,536

DAG & RED (1) ... 2 EASTLEIGH (0) ...0
Harfield 44, Kandi 52 — **Att: 1,315**

DOVER (0)..... 1 ALDERSHOT (0)..0
Lewis 88 — **Att: 1,348**

GATESHEAD (1) .. 1 CHESTERFLD (0) 0
Rigg 27 (pen) — **Att: 1,208**

HARTLEPOOL (1) 2 FC HALIFAX (1) ..1
James 32, Molyneux 53 — Rodney 14
Att: 3,018

HAVANT & W (3) . 3 EBBSFLEET (0) ..3
Rutherford 22, 44, McNamara 45 — Kedwell 46, Cheek 51, Magri 57
Att: 1,097

L ORIENT (1)..... 2 HARROGATE TN (0)0
Coulson 2, Harrold 90 — **Att: 6,665**

MAIDENHEAD (0) 1 BARROW (1).....1
Fondop-Talom 74 — Hindle 19
Att: 1,820

MAIDSTONE U (0)0 BRAINTREE (1)...2
Sagaf 2 (pen), Henry 85
Att: 1,908

WREXHAM (0) .... 1 SUTTON UTD (0) .0
Kennedy 78 — **Att: 5,264**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leyton Orient	44	25	12	7	73	35	87
Salford City	44	25	10	9	75	41	85
Solihull Moors	44	25	9	10	72	42	84
Wrexham	44	24	9	11	55	36	81
AFC Fylde	44	21	15	8	71	39	78
Harrogate Town	44	20	11	13	75	55	71
Eastleigh	44	21	7	16	57	60	70
Ebbsfleet United	44	18	13	13	63	44	67
Gateshead	44	19	9	16	52	44	66
Sutton Utd	44	17	13	14	53	55	64
Barrow	44	15	13	16	49	51	58
Chesterfield	44	13	17	14	52	49	56
Bromley	44	15	11	18	62	67	56
Hartlepool	44	14	14	16	53	59	56
Barnet	44	15	11	18	42	49	56
Dag & Red	44	15	10	19	49	53	55
Dover	44	14	12	18	54	64	54
FC Halifax	44	11	20	13	40	42	53
Boreham Wood	44	12	15	17	48	59	51
Maidenhead Utd	44	15	6	23	43	68	51
Havant and W	44	9	13	22	62	80	40
Aldershot	44	9	11	24	34	67	38
Braintree Town	44	10	7	27	46	78	37
Maidstone Utd	44	9	6	29	35	78	33

North: Ashton Utd 0 Chester FC 3, Blyth S 2 Guiseley 0, Brackley 2 Boston Utd 0, Curzon A 0 Southport 3, Darlington 1 Bradford P A 0, Kidderminster 1 Leamington 2, York 2 Spennymoor Town 3. **South:** Chippenham 2 Torquay 1, Hungerford Town 0 Bath City 0 (Bath City win 4-1 on agg), St Albans 2 East Thurrock 1, Welling 2 Chelmsford 0, Woking 1 Concord R 2.

EVO-STIK NORTHERN PREMIER—Prem: Gainsboro' 0 Hednesford 0.

SOUTHERN PREM—Central: Stourbridge L Alvechurch L.

BOSTIK—Prem: Carshalton Ath 2 Burgess Hill Town 0, Worthing 1 Tonbridge Angels 1.

sky bet LEAGUE TWO EFL

CAMBRIDGE (0) .. 0 SWINDON (0).....0
Att: 4,380

CARLISLE (0) ..... 1 LINCOLN C (0) ...0
Jones 76 — **Att: 6,819**

CHELTENHAM (0) 0 OLDHAM (0) 0
Att: 4,022

COLCHESTER (1) 1 GRIMSBY (0) 0
Nouble 25 — **Att: 3,677**

CREWE (1)..... 2 YEOVIL (0) 0
Kirk 4, Lowery 65 — **Att: 3,410**

EXETER (0)..... 1 CRAWLEY TN (2) 3
Bowman 50 — Morais 26, Grego-Cox 34, 60
Att: 5,054

MANSFIELD (1)...4 MORECAMBE (0) 0
Mellis 30, Pearce 70, Hamilton 73, Benning 85 — **Att: 5,177**

NEWPORT (2)..... 3 BURY (1)..... 1
Demetriou 5, 75, Matt 14 — Maynard 7
Att: 4,433

NORTHMPTN (1) . 3 MACCLESFLD (1)1
Bowditch 25, D Powell 54, Morias 90 — Smith 38
Att: 4,925

NOTTS CO (0)..... 1 MK DONS (0) 2
Barclay 90 — Wheeler 62, Aneke 85
Att: 7,130

PORT VALE (0).... 1 STEVENAGE (1) ..4
Montano 67 — Sonupe 12, 50, Chair 84, Guthrie 90
Att: 4,088

TRANMERE (0) ...0 FOREST GRN (0) .1
Mondal 47
Att: 9,468

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lincoln City	43	23	15	5	73	39	84
Mansfield	43	20	16	7	66	35	76
MK Dons	43	22	9	12	69	46	75
Bury	43	21	11	11	77	53	74
Tranmere	43	20	11	12	61	46	71
Forest Green	43	19	13	11	63	42	70
Exeter	43	18	11	14	58	48	65
Carlisle	43	19	7	17	63	59	64
Colchester	43	18	9	16	59	52	63
Stevenage	43	18	9	16	54	53	63
Newport County	42	18	9	15	55	58	63
Swindon	43	15	16	12	53	50	61
Oldham	42	15	14	13	62	50	59
Crewe	43	17	8	18	54	53	59
Northampton	43	13	18	12	56	56	57
Cheltenham	43	14	12	17	54	60	54
Grimsby	43	14	8	21	41	54	50
Port Vale	43	12	11	20	37	52	47
Morecambe	43	12	11	20	47	68	47
Crawley Town	42	13	7	22	44	62	46
Cambridge	43	12	10	21	37	61	46
Macclesfield	43	9	12	22	46	73	39
Yeovil	42	9	10	23	38	62	37
Notts County	43	8	13	22	44	79	37

Top Scorers: 29: Norwood (Tranmere), 23: Walker (Mansfield), 22: Amond (Newport County), 21: Agard (Milton Keynes Dons), 20: Maynard (Bury), 17: Matt (Newport County), Akinde (Lincoln City), Aneke (Milton Keynes Dons), 16: Palmer (Crawley Town), O'Shea (Bury), 14: Hope (Carlisle), Lang (Oldham), Varney (Cheltenham), 13: Hamilton (Mansfield), Reilly (Crewe, 7 for Halesowen), Hemmings (Notts County), Doidge (Forest Green, 1 for Bolton), 12: Thomas (Grimsby), Jennings (Tranmere), Szmodics (Colchester), Pope (Port Vale), Devitt (Carlisle), Doughty (Swindon), 11: Andrade (Lincoln City), Wilson (Macclesfield).

sky bet LEAGUE ONE EFL

AFC WIMB'DN (1)1 BRISTOL R (0)....1
Pigott 22 — O Clarke 78
Att: 4,850

BARNSLEY (1) .... 2 SHRWSBURY (1) 1
Mowatt 23, Brown 55 — Campbell 38
Att: 13,426

BURTON ALB (0) . 1 PORTSMTH (1)...2
Boyce 47 — Close 31, Clarke 90
Att: 4,034

COVENTRY (1) .... 2 BRADFORD (0) ...0
Hiwula 9, Enobakhare 88 — **Att: 11,711**

FLEETWOOD (0).. 1 PETERBORO (0)..1
Hunter 90 — Maddison 64
Att: 2,774

GILLINGHAM (0) . 3 PLYMOUTH (1) ...1
Charles-Cook 56, Byrne 58, Hanlan 90 — Ladapo 25
Att: 5,987

OXFORD UTD (2) . 2 CHARLTON (1)....1
Nelson 18, Garbutt 23 — Taylor 5 (pen)
Att: 8,680

ROCHDALE (0)....1 WYCOMBE (0) ...0
Henderson 79 — **Att: 3,711**

SCUNTHORPE (0) 0 BLACKPOOL (0) .0
Att: 3,795

SUNDERLND (2).. 2 DONCASTER (0)..0
Morgan 7, Wyke 32 — **Att: 34,287**

WALSALL (0)..... 1 SOUTHEND (1) ...1
Oteh 90 (pen) — Cox 43
Att: 4,624

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Luton	42	25	12	5	81	37	87
Barnsley	43	24	13	6	74	36	85
Sunderland	42	22	17	3	76	41	83
Portsmouth	42	24	11	7	77	45	83
Charlton	43	23	10	10	63	40	79
Doncaster	43	19	12	12	71	54	69
Peterborough	42	18	11	13	64	55	65
Coventry	43	18	10	15	52	49	64
Burton Albion	43	16	12	15	61	50	60
Blackpool	43	14	17	12	47	46	59
Fleetwood	42	15	12	15	55	48	57
Oxford Utd	43	14	14	15	52	57	56
Gillingham	43	14	9	20	57	69	51
Shrewsbury	43	12	14	17	48	55	50
Bristol Rovers	42	12	13	17	44	47	49
Accrington	42	12	12	18	43	61	48
Rochdale	43	13	9	21	52	83	48
Wycombe	43	12	11	20	52	65	47
Plymouth	43	12	11	20	52	70	47
Scunthorpe	43	12	10	21	49	73	46
Southend	43	12	8	23	50	64	44
AFC Wimbledon	42	12	8	22	37	59	44
Walsall	43	11	10	22	46	70	43
Bradford	43	10	6	27	45	74	36

Top Scorers: 22: Collins (Luton), Marquis (Doncaster), Taylor (Charlton), 20: Henderson (Rochdale), Eaves (Gillingham), 18: Moore (Barnsley), Madden (Fleetwood Town), Ladapo (Plymouth), 17: Toney (Peterborough), Clarke-Harris (Bristol Rovers, 6 for Coventry), Cox (Southend), Woodrow (Barnsley), Evans (Fleetwood Town), 16: Lowe (Portsmouth), Wilks (Doncaster), Saunders (Fleetwood Town, 8 for Darlington), Cook (Walsall), 15: Godden (Peterborough), Pigott (AFC Wimbledon), 14: Boyce (Burton Albion), McGeady (Sunderland), Kee (Accrington Stanley), 13: Gnanduillet (Blackpool), Smith (Doncaster, 11 for Barrow), 12: Akins (Burton Albion), Henry (Oxford Utd), Lameiras (Plymouth), Smith (Portsmouth, 12 for Bognor Regis Town), Armstrong (Accrington Stanley, 10 for Gateshead), Okenabirhie (Shrewsbury), Novak (Scunthorpe).

sky bet CHAMPIONSHIP EFL

BIRMINGHM (2).. 2 DERBY (2).....2
Jutkiewicz 3, Morrison 19 — Waghorn 7, Keogh 28
Att: 23,902

BOLTON (0)..... 0 ASTON VILLA (0) 2
Grealish 47, Abraham 57
Att: 17,344

BRISTOL C (0) .... 1 READING (0) 1
Brownhill 72 — Meite 48
Att: 23,309

LEEDS (1)..... 1 WIGAN (1).....2
Bamford 17 — Massey 44, 62
Att: 34,758

MIDDLESBRO (1) 1 STOKE (0) 0
Assombalonga 2 — **Att: 22,890**

MILLWALL (1) .... 1 BRENTFORD (1)..1
Gregory 15 — Da Silva 20

NORWICH (L) ..... L SHEFF WED (L) .. L

PRESTON (2)..... 4 IPSWICH (0) 0
Robinson 6, 22, Nmecha 56, 75 — **Att: 12,546**

QPR (0)..... 1 BLACKBURN (1) .2
Smith 90 — Graham 22 (pen), Dack 46
Att: 13,632

SHEFF UTD (0) ... 2 NOTTM FOR (0) ..0
Duffy 51, Stevens 85 — **Att: 28,403**

SWANSEA (1) ..... 4 ROTHERHAM (2).3
McBurnie 36, 79, McKay 50, Byers 69 — Ihiekwe 10, Crooks 38, Vaulks 83
Att: 18,527

WEST BROM (1) . 3 HULL (0).....2
Gibbs 42, Gayle 62, 85 — Kane 48, 59
Att: 23,501

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norwich	42	25	11	6	85	51	86
Sheff Utd	43	24	10	9	71	39	82
Leeds	43	25	7	11	70	44	82
West Brom	43	22	10	11	84	58	76
Aston Villa	43	19	15	9	79	58	72
Middlesbrough	43	18	13	12	45	36	67
Bristol City	42	18	12	12	56	47	66
Derby	42	17	13	12	61	52	64
Preston North End	43	16	12	15	64	59	60
Hull	43	17	9	17	63	62	60
Swansea	42	17	8	17	59	57	59
Sheff Wed	42	15	14	13	52	55	59
Nottm Forest	43	14	15	14	56	54	57
Blackburn	43	15	11	17	59	65	56
Brentford	43	14	13	16	67	59	55
Stoke	43	11	19	13	41	48	52
QPR	43	13	9	21	51	67	48
Birmingham	43	13	13	17	60	56	47
Reading	43	10	15	18	48	64	45
Wigan	43	11	12	20	47	63	45
Millwall	42	10	13	19	47	60	43
Rotherham	43	8	16	19	49	76	40
Bolton (R)	43	8	8	27	29	74	32
Ipswich (R)	43	4	16	23	33	72	28

Top Scorers: 28: Pukki (Norwich), 26: Maupay (Brentford), 25: Abraham (Aston Villa), 24: Sharp (Sheff Utd), 23: Gayle (West Brom), 22: Adams (Birmingham), 21: Rodriguez (West Brom), Bowen (Hull), McBurnie (Swansea), 19: Stockley (Preston North End, 16 for Exeter), 17: Grabban (Nottm Forest), Dack (Blackburn), 16: Graham (Blackburn), 14: Wilson (Derby), Roofe (Leeds), Assombalonga (Middlesbrough), 13: Meite (Reading), Jutkiewicz (Birmingham), Robinson (Preston North End), McGoldrick (Sheff Utd), 12: Waghorn (Derby), Campbell (Hull), Watkins (Brentford), Gregory (Millwall), Hernandez (Leeds), Diedhiou (Bristol City), 11: Browne (Preston North End), Benrahma (Brentford).

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Boro hit top six thanks to Pulis' Potters hoodoo

MIDDLESBROUGH 1
STOKE 0

By **Clive Hetherington**

TRUE BRITT: Striker celebrates scoring winner

TONY Pulis maintained his hold over former club Stoke as his Middlesbrough side climbed back into the top six.

Britt Assombalonga's 14th goal this season was enough as Pulis made it 15 league games unbeaten against the Potters since losing his first encounter with them as Bournemouth boss in 1992.

Boro have revived their play-off ambitions with three straight wins after a run of six successive defeats.

Pulis said: "I have great respect for Stoke and all the people there. My daughter is still a massive Stoke supporter and her three children were mascots today – but wearing Boro kits."

Stand-in Stoke keeper Adam Federici, in his first league game for the Potters, picked the ball out of the net in just the second minute. Boro skipper John Obi Mikel hit a glorious crossfield ball into the path of Jonny Howson. whose cross was knocked in by Assombalonga from close range.

Stoke boss Nathan Jones said: "We had worked on the first 10 minutes in the game and what we had to do. It's very frustrating."

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Picture: ANDREW BOYERS

FREAK RESULT: Massey scores winner against the run of play yesterday

Leeds staring failure in face

LEEDS 1
WIGAN 2

By **Simon Bird**

MARCELO BIELSA has warned Leeds they are facing their worst moment of the season, with their campaign in danger of going belly-up.

Leeds yesterday lost at home to the team with the worst away record in the Football League to put in serious doubt their automatic promotion bid.

After Sheffield United had surged into second place by beating Nottingham Forest in the noon kick-off, Bielsa's men flopped.

It was a freak result. Leeds had 77 per cent possession, 36 shots and 15 corners, but only Patrick Bamford's early opener to show for their efforts.

Wigan, playing with 10 men for 75 minutes, had two efforts on target and Gavin Massey scored with both.

Leeds missed a penalty too.

Bielsa said: "This is the worst moment of the season. It is a wound that will only heal if we get promotion. The season will mean nothing if we don't. Any explanation I could give would be meaningless. It is not a game you can analyse. But you have to win. Have to win. We arrived here with all the conditions to get promoted."

Wigan goalkeeper Christian Walton saved Pablo Hernandez's penalty, made countless blocks and punches, and his defence threw their bodies at everything.

No wonder tempers boiled in the sun – Wigan's Sam Morsy was pelted with coins as he lay injured on the byline.

Referee Scott Duncan was made aware of it, to leave Leeds facing punishment.

Bielsa's men go to Brentford on Easter Monday and he said: "What we have done so far is not enough. It puts it all to the test. We need more effort in times of weakness. It is my responsibility. Ambition, effort, commitment, if you have these ingredients and if you don't get what you're looking for, it is not the responsibility of the players but the head coach."

Hernandez was left to rue his penalty miss after defender Cedric Kipre was sent off after apparently handling Bamford's shot on the line.

Replays suggested the ball hit his stomach.

Block after defensive block from Wigan followed, along with Reece James grazing the top of the Leeds bar and having a good penalty shout turned down at the death.

"People will be baffled why we are struggling at the bottom after seeing that performance," said Wigan coach Paul Cook.

LEEDS (4-1-4-1): Casilla; Ayling, Jansson, Berardi, Alioski; Phillips (Forshaw 46); Hernandez, Roberts (Roofe 46), Klich (Clarke 70), Harrison; Bamford. **Booked:** Ayling, Berardi, Klich. **Goal:** Bamford 17.

WIGAN (4-2-3-1): Walton; Byrne, Kipre, Dunkley, Robinson; James, Morsy; Massey (Powell 76), Evans, Naismith; Clarke (Olsson 67). **Booked:** Walton, Kipre, Powell, Evans. **Sent off:** Kipre 15. **Goals:** Massey 44, 62.

Referee: S Duncan (Newcastle).

We'll hold our nerve in wild finale

SHEFFIELD UTD 2
NOTTM FOREST 0

By **Jason Mellor**

CHRIS WILDER predicted a nerve-shredding finale to the Championship promotion race after Sheffield United piled the pressure back on Leeds.

The Blades made hard work of seeing off 10-man Forest but sealed a first win in three thanks to second-half goals from Mark Duffy and Enda Stevens.

Wilder backed his troops to handle the tension in their final three games, starting with Monday's trip to Hull. He said: "Everybody's after that special prize and every game will be tight all the way through now. We were missing players but the lads did their talking out on the pitch. That's 82 points we've got, and the core of this group has been with us since League One, so it's a great achievement and I don't think we're done yet."

The contest swung in United's favour after the re-start, as Forest's Yohan Benalouane saw red for hacking down David McGoldrick. And the 10 men were soon behind as Duffy curled in a sublime opener.

The Blades had to wait until five minutes from time for the second, as Stevens sprinted 70 yards to finish a flowing counter.

Four straight defeats is mid-table Forest's worst run in more than two years, leaving boss Martin O'Neill with plenty of work to do this summer. He said: "It's a tough job but I came into it with my eyes open."

Dean's fine nine seals Bolton fate

Pictures: LEE SMITH and CLINT HUGHES

BOLTON 0
ASTON VILLA 2

By **Marc Iles**

JACK GREALISH and Tammy Abraham combined to conjure up Aston Villa's ninth straight victory and confirm Bolton's relegation to League One.

Dean Smith's side are set to hit the play-offs as the Championship's form side after suffering Wembley heartache a year ago.

As for Bolton, their entire season has been agony and boss Phil Parkinson knows he might be out of a job should the EFL ratify a takeover by former Watford owner Laurence Bassini.

"If I was on the outside looking in, I'd see my record of promotions from that division and think I was a good bet," said Parkinson.

"But I know the new owner may have his own ideas and I would have to discuss the matter with my family."

Bassini was in the stands to witness the latest installment of a campaign under previous owner Ken Anderson that had been, in Parkinson's words, nothing short of "chaos" with players refusing to train because of unpaid wages as the club teetered towards administration.

"To draw a line under this all is important now," he said after a club-record 27th league defeat. "It has been chaos. A lot of damage has been done to the reputation of a great club and it's vital now that we start to mend it.

"Relegation hurts, of course it does, but it has been inevitable for a couple of weeks now. What is important is that we pick the place back up and move forward again."

Villa last won nine on the bounce in 1910 and manager Smith, who took over from Steve Bruce in October last year, was elated.

"No living person will have seen the last run so I am proud of the players," he said. "Now we have to go all out and try to break the record on Monday against Millwall.

"We are very motivated to keep the run going, you could see that from the players."

Grealish headed home a 47th-minute opener after Abraham picked him out with an inswinging cross.The lead was doubled 10 minutes later when Grealish shuffled around keeper Ben Alnwick and sent a cross back for Abraham to head his 25th goal of the season. But it came at a cost and he quickly left with a shoulder injury.

Glenn Whelan nearly grabbed a third late on.

BOLTON (4-4-1-1): Alnwick 6; Brockbank 6, Hobbs 6, Wheater 5 (Beevers 36, 6), Taylor 6; Williams 6, Connolly 6; Buckley 6, Connell 6, O'Neil 5 (Magennis 45, 6); Donaldson 6 (Oztumer 80). **Booked:** Beevers, Connolly.

ASTON VILLA (4-3-3): Steer 7; Elmohamady 7, Tuanzebe 7 (Jedinak 73), Mings 7, Taylor 7; Whelan 7, McGinn 7 (Hourihane 72), Grealish 8; Adomah 7, Abraham 8 (Davis 60, 6), El Ghazi 7. **Booked:** Elmohamady. **Goals:** Grealish 47, Abraham 57.

Referee: J Brooks (Leicestershire).

PLEASURE AND THE PAIN: Abraham scores Villa's second while, left, Bolton are dejected after relegation is sealed

Hunter gives Barton reason to be cheerful

FLEETWOOD 1
PETERBOROUGH 1

By **Nate Williams**

JOEY BARTON got back to business after last week's controversy – but the Fleetwood boss declined to speak after his side's draw with Peterborough.

Barton was back on the touchline seven days after an alleged altercation with Barnsley manager Daniel Stendel in the tunnel following the Tykes' 4-2 win.

On Wednesday, a man was arrested on suspicion of a racially aggravated public order offence and racially aggravated assault. He was later bailed until May.

Barton responded to the claims via a statement that read: "With regards to the alleged incident, I emphatically deny the allegations."

Yesterday Barton was animated on the touchline and could be heard voicing his frustration when chances were missed. After Ashley Hunter's last-gasp goal cancelled out Marcus Maddison's strike to earn a point for Fleetwood, Barton delegated media duties to assistant Clint Hill, who said the club's focus would remain on the pitch.

"All positive at the moment," Hill said. "As you can see from the lads' fighting spirit, we're all together. They give us everything.

"There's been a big culture change in the background and all we ever ask from the lads is to keep going with everything they've got for the last part of the season."

LEVELLER: Barton celebrate Hunter's goal

Warm welcome back for Stendel

BARNSLEY 2
SHREWSBURY 1

By **Tim Evershed**

BARNSLEY manager Daniel Stendel was given a huge welcome from the Barnsley crowd following his alleged altercation with Joey Barton.

Stendel returned to watch his side maintain the pressure on their promotion rivals with a 2-1 win over struggling Shrewsbury at Oakwell.

Alex Mowatt and Jacob Brown were on target for the Tykes but it was goalkeeper Adam Davies who secured the points with a string of top saves.

Stendel said: "We won because we had the better goalkeeper. He's not only a good keeper but a good captain too. I hope we can keep him.

"It was a tough game, just as it was when we played them earlier this season."

LEAGUE ONE ROUND-UP: PAGE 71

Robins can still fly says Johnson

BROWNHILL: Equaliser

ROUND-UP

LEE JOHNSON believes **Bristol City** can make the most of their outsider status despite slipping from the top six after being held to a 1-1 draw by **Reading**.

Josh Brownhill saved a point for the Robins after Yakou Meite had put the visitors ahead.

City manager Johnson said: "There are going to be so many twists and turns, we have to keep chipping away. This is what we want, we have to thrive in the uncertainty."

Frank Lampard and Garry Monk both fumed at referee Simon Hooper after **Derby** twice came from behind to claim a 2-2 draw at **Birmingham** and stay three points off sixth place.

Lampard thought his side should have had a penalty while Monk was convinced Richard Keogh had handled in scoring Derby's second equaliser. Lampard said: "I don't like to bang on about penalties because it was a tight game but those decisions make a big difference."

And Monk said: "Keogh's arm was in an unnatural position and it was going goalwards – so you hope you get them."

A second-half Dwight Gayle double helped **West Brom** recover to tighten their grip on fourth place with a 3-2 win over **Hull**. Todd Kane had put the Tigers ahead after Kieran Gibbs' opener, but Gayle's strikes mean the Baggies need three points to confirm their place in the play-offs.

Rotherham remain three points off safety after losing 4-3 at **Swansea** despite twice taking the lead. And **Millwall** sit one place and three points above the bottom three after a 1-1 draw with **Brentford**.

Howe humble as he hits landmark

BOURNEMOUTH V FULHAM
KICK-OFF: 3pm

By **Alex Crook**

BOURNEMOUTH boss Eddie Howe today becomes the youngest manager in English football to rack up 500 games – but says he is still trying to prove himself.

"When I was appointed I didn't even know I was going to become a manager" said Howe, 41, above. "I really respected the opportunity and someone's faith in me.

"I was desperate to repay that faith and am still doing the same thing, trying to repay everyone for giving me this chance."

A win at home to Fulham will wrap up survival for Bournemouth.

Fulham are already down and caretaker manager Scott Parker is resigned to losing players in the summer, with loanees Sergio Rico and Calum Chambers set to return to their parent clubs Sevilla and Arsenal.

"There is no doubt there will be players leaving," he said.

Gracia lines up excuses for Troy

HUDDERSFIELD V WATFORD
KICK-OFF: 3pm

By **Mike Walters**

JAVI GRACIA has accused linesman Richard West of "confusing" referee Craig Pawson to get Troy Deeney sent off.

Watford's appeal against Deeney's red for swinging his arm into Lucas Torreira's face in the home defeat by Arsenal was rejected and the skipper, right, will serve a three-match ban.

But head coach Gracia believes West played a major part in Deeney's third ban in 18 months. He said: "It was not a red card. He confused the referee with his conversation.

From my angle it wasn't an aggression. Troy was competing honestly and it's true there was contact, but nothing else – no elbow."

The Terriers are already relegated but defender Jon Gorenc Stankovic still wants to put a smile on fans' faces. He said: "We want to give them something to cheer. It is hard to see them when they travel all over the country for us and we lose."

Main picture: GLYN KIRK

SINKING FEELING: Brighton's Dale Stephens cannot hide his dismay after the 2-0 defeat by Cardiff

Hughton will fight the fear

By **Chris Hatherall**

BRIGHTON manager Chris Hughton will not fill his team with fear as they battle to avoid a disastrous relegation back to the Championship.

Brighton, who won promotion in 2017, are only two points above the drop zone as they head to Wolves today, and have lost their past four Premier League games.

But Hughton believes painting a bleak picture of what relegation would mean to the club and his players' careers would be a dangerous way to try to motivate them.

"What I can't do is fill them with fear," he said. "We have five games left and you want to get the best out of the players.

"All I can do is tell them the exact facts. We have five games to go, we're two points above the relegation zone, and we don't want to rely on other teams. So, it's in our hands.

"The only things that will stop that happening is if we're not good enough in the end, or we don't work hard enough to make it happen.

"They have to enjoy the challenges of what these next five games will bring. It's not only Saturday's game, but it's going into playing against a Tottenham team in a new stadium next Tuesday, too.

"How good would it be to put in a performance to get a result there? These are the positive challenges we're putting to them."

Hughton is frustrated the battle against the drop is being billed as a two-horse race to avoid the final relegation spot.

His team are two points clear of third-from-bottom Cardiff, who face Liverpool tomorrow, but also have a game in hand. And Southampton, one place above Albion, are only three points better off – with even Newcastle, who play at the Amex next Saturday, not totally out of the woods.

"It's still very much in our hands and I don't think it's fair to talk only about Cardiff," said Hughton. "There are other teams who are still not mathematically safe at this time.

"But the reality is, if we can get the points we think we might need, other results won't matter."

Anthony Knockaert is suspended and Hughton could make changes from the team who lost 2-0 at home to Cardiff on Tuesday.

Today's opponents could hardly be more relaxed. Wolves players have been sunning themselves on golf courses and beaches in Marbella and taking each other on at go-karting.

Manager Nuno Espirito Santo believes the break was the ideal tonic for a side looking to secure a Europa League spot by finishing seventh, after the low of losing to Watford in the FA Cup semi-finals followed by defeat at Southampton.

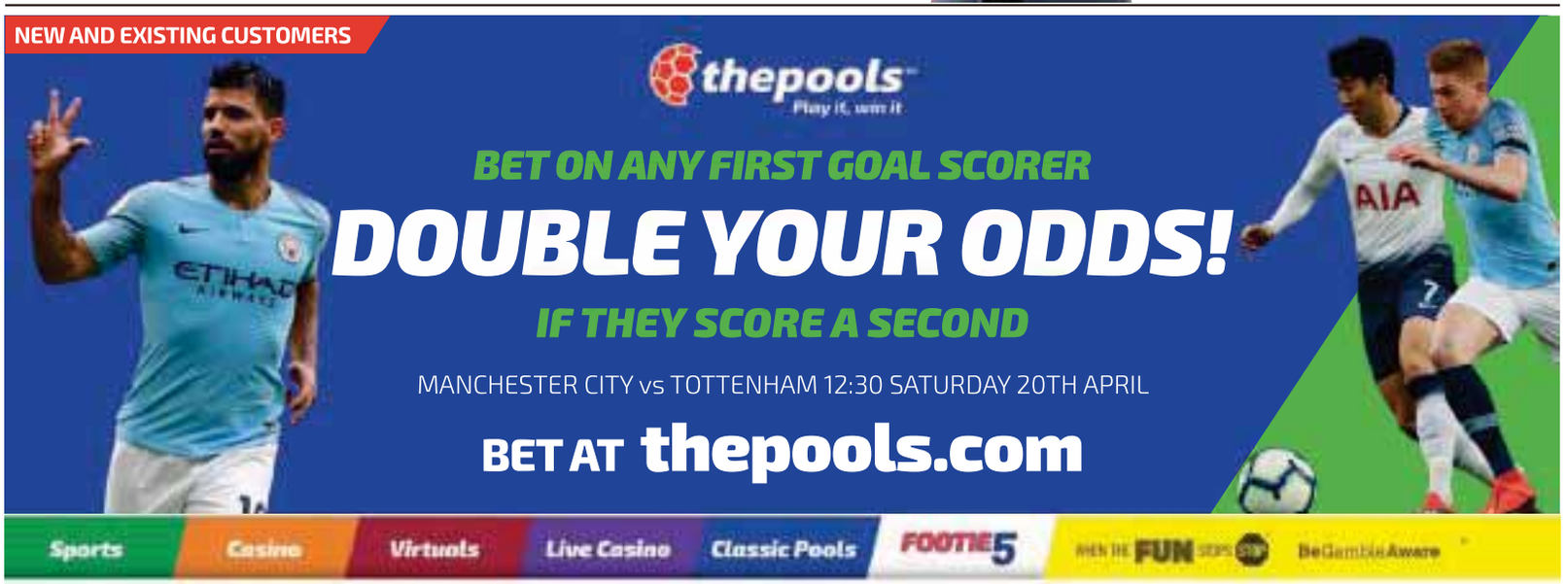
"Once they finished training, the time was their own, but instead of going home they spent it together, that's the difference," Nuno said.

"This is the kind of environment we want to give them: joking, playing golf. Some of them had their families there also and they went to the beach.

"If we have a good relationship as a group or a family, when we compete everything will be easier.

"We expect a very tough challenge from Brighton because they are fighting for their lives."

'IN OUR HANDS': Chris Hughton



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Picture: IAN MacNICOL

Rafa: I will stay home if I have to

By **Simon Bird**

RAFA BENITEZ is prepared to be out of work next season unless Newcastle prove they can "compete".

The Spaniard says he wants to have another crack at winning the Champions League before he retires as a front-line manager in 11 years.

Benitez has been offered £100million – plus cash raised by sales over the next two seasons – to spend on players but has yet to commit his future, with arguments continuing over the age of signings and plans for the training ground.

"What I want is to get a job where I can enjoy competing. If I cannot, maybe I have to stay at home and wait," Benitez said as he prepared his team to host Southampton.

"When I decided to stay here in the Championship, it was to compete to go back to the Premier League, and try to be in the top 10, and try to go to Europe.

"Now we are in a situation where we have to decide if we want to achieve something more. I don't say you have to spend £200m, but you have to do things in a way where you can really compete when you go to the market.

"I will try to do my very best until the last minute. Again I will say I'm happy, I can see the potential of the club, so I can't repeat and repeat the same message."

Benitez turned 59 this week and is conscious his next contract is key for maintaining his reputation. Asked how long he would go on, he replied: "I was talking with a friend yesterday – 11 years. Eleven years as a manager, that's fine. You can see Roy Hodgson is still there [at 70].

"I want to compete for trophies. And the best trophy is the Champions League so I would like to have the possibility in the next 11 years to win the Champions League."

Benitez admits uncertainty over his future impacts on his players. He cannot discuss new contracts, or make firm promises, because his own deal ends in June.

But this week he did discuss new cameras being installed to monitor training sessions, so he is managing the smallest details in a sign that will encourage fans eager for him to extend his three-year stay.

"I like to manage teams, I like to coach players, so I'm happy with that," he added. "We are forward-thinking. My staff, they are young people and we are always thinking about how to improve things.

"I know you need young people coming into your staff to be sure that you are talking with players in the way that you have to talk."

International management will one day also appeal, especially with Spain. "Later on, I will say, 'OK, now maybe it's time'," Benitez said. "But at the moment, I like to come in every day."

Southampton boss Ralph Hasenhuttl feels the same – especially when he discovers an exciting young talent like Josh Sims.

The winger spent the first half of the season on loan at Reading but was sent back to the Saints after failing to nail down a place.

Since coming off the bench to help fire Southampton to a comeback win over Tottenham last month, the academy graduate has become a key part in Hasenhuttl's survival bid.

"It is maybe the biggest surprise since I came here," said Hasenhuttl. "This guy's gone from zero to hero in a very short time."

NEWCASTLE SOUTHAMPTON
KICK-OFF: 5.30pm
BT SPORT 1

COMPETITOR: Benitez is eager to battle for the best trophies in the game

Ramsey has hope for Euro farewell

RAMSEY: Injured

ARSENAL C PALACE
KICK-OFF: 4pm TOMORROW

By **Paul Brown**

AARON RAMSEY hopes to return from his hamstring injury inside three weeks, handing Arsenal a huge boost.

Gunners boss Unai Emery feared Ramsey, who will join Juventus in the summer, could have played his last game for the club after limping off in Thursday's Europa League win at Napoli.

The Wales midfielder is still being assessed by club doctors, but Emery confirmed the injury to his left hamstring is not as bad as first feared.

"I don't know how long it will take him out of the team, but maybe two or three weeks," he said. "His progress this season is amazing. He is a very important player."

Ramsey will miss tomorrow's visit of Crystal Palace, as well as league games at Wolves and Leicester and Europa League semi-final first leg against Valencia. But if he responds well to treatment, he could be back in time for the second leg in Spain on May 9.

Ramsey was walking comfortably as he left the Stadio San Paolo without the aid of crutches, and he is determined to make sure his Arsenal career ends on a high.

Meanwhile, Emery admits he will have to shuffle his pack against Palace as his team turn their focus back to the race for the top four.

Arsenal faced Napoli just 72 hours after playing at Watford and Ramsey will not be the only player who started in Italy to miss out as the Gunners boss rings the changes.

Emery said: "It's very important now to do some rotation. Some players are injured and we need different players with a new energy and a different physical condition."

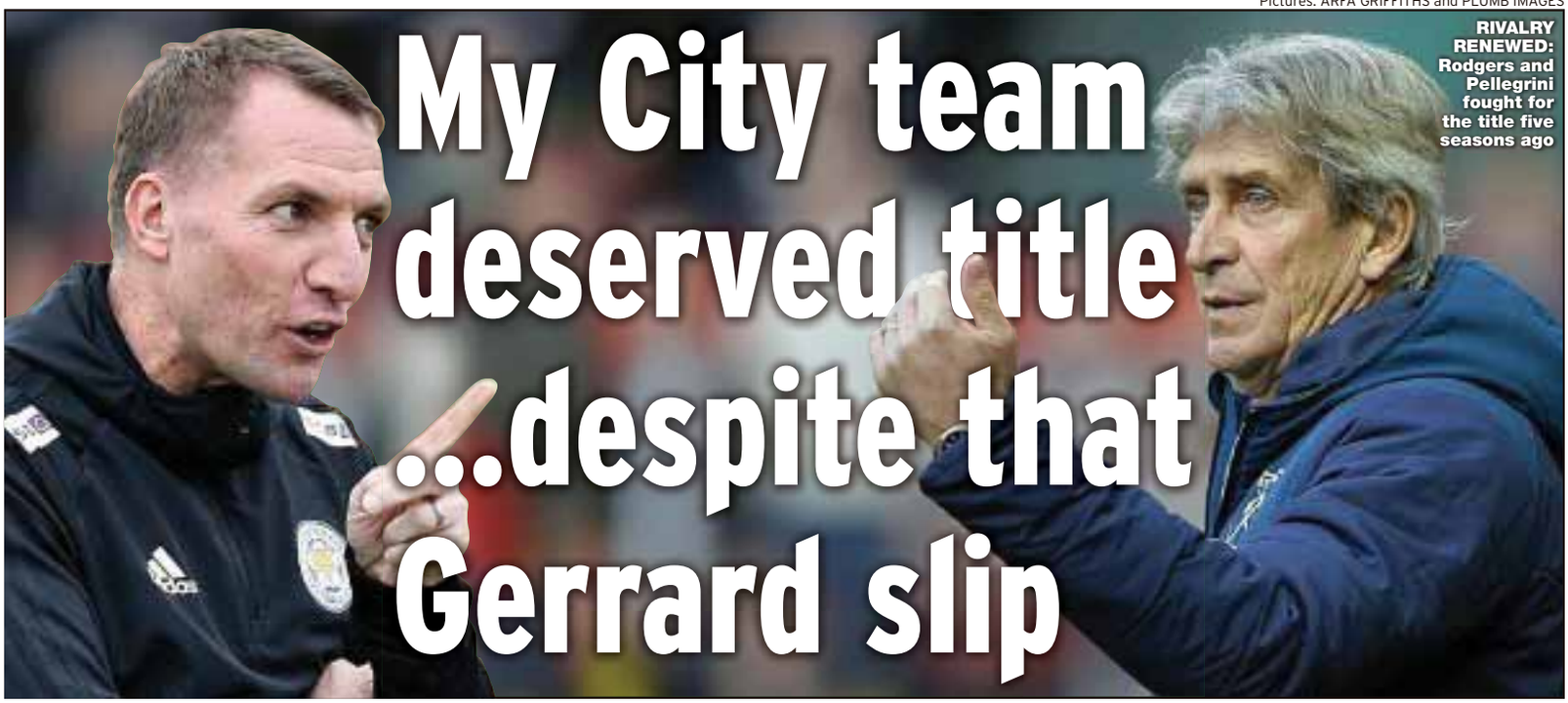
Full-back Ainsley Maitland-Niles claims the pressure is off now Arsenal have reached the Europa League semi-finals.

And he is backing the Gunners, who sit just a point behind third-placed Tottenham in fourth place, to make a strong push for a Champions League finish.

He said: "Beating Napoli feels like a weight off our shoulders. The team deserved it.

"The manager has given us a lot of confidence. He's backing us and he believes in us so much. And we believe in each other more and more every day."

Pictures: ARFA GRIFFITHS and PLUMB IMAGES



RIVALRY RENEWED: Rodgers and Pellegrini fought for the title five seasons ago

My City team deserved title ...despite that Gerrard slip

Pellegrini wants to win the duel against Rodgers – just like he did five years ago

By **Jon West** and **James Nursey**

MANUEL PELLEGRINI is confident of getting the better of Brendan Rodgers today, just as he did five seasons ago to become a Premier League winner.

Manchester City and Liverpool are currently on the home stretch of a title run-in that mirrors the epic battle of 2014, when Pellegrini was in charge of City and Rodgers was at Liverpool.

Pellegrini's current club West Ham host Leicester today and the Chilean made it clear that City's success five years ago was down to their overall superiority – not Liverpool legend Steven Gerrard's infamous slip against Chelsea with three games to go.

"Liverpool were always in front of us because we had three games in hand," said Pellegrini. "It seems always that Liverpool lost the title but I don't agree with that.

"I do not agree that it was because they lost against Chelsea – it was 2-0 not 1-0. The first goal was a problem because Gerrard slipped – but [Liverpool] didn't score a goal.

"And if they had scored and it had finished 1-1 there would have been exactly the same champion, because we beat them by two points. We were the champions because we were the best team that season." Rodgers admitted that Pellegrini's men deserved the title and was looking forward to renewing acquaintances.

But he insisted his Liverpool did not crack up, pointing out they won 12 of their final 14 games.

"He is a really good guy, he stopped us winning the title a few years back," said Rodgers. "It was obviously a tough one to take being so late on.

"The best team deserved to win it over the 38 games, and they did. But we played great football and went from the season before being in seventh to nearly winning the title, which was a massive jump from where we were. It was just a shame we couldn't build on that.

"It was tough for Steven because he was a brilliant player for Liverpool and in my period there he was absolutely fantastic. It was just one of those unfortunate things.

"We got so close and people talked about pressure in that period but we weren't showing any signs of that. We didn't play with any pressure. Of the last 14 games, we won 12 and drew one and lost one. It was unfortunate the Chelsea game we slipped up in, we played ever so well.

"But of those players there at that time, the element that gets taken out of that period is Jordan Henderson. He got sent off at the end of the Manchester City game, right at the last kick, and his absence was a factor that really hurt us."

Rodgers believes another holding midfielder could be just as critical today, in the shape of West Ham 20-year-old Declan Rice.

"He is a brilliant player, a young talent," he said. "He came into the team as a centre-half, made a couple of mistakes but has shown his personality.

"He has this incredible in-built brain for football. You see in that controlling position how he can dictate the game and organise for them. He is arguably their key player. His reading of the game is fantastic for such a young player and you can see he loves football.

"He plays with a passion and can virtually do everything. He can pass forward, pass with both feet, play one touch, and he senses danger, intercepts and blocks."

Pellegrini says City's tougher run-in – with Tottenham and Manchester United their next opponents compared to Cardiff and Huddersfield for Liverpool – may not prove too pivotal.

"There are so many things that can decide a title," he said. "Sometimes the weakest team you play is the most difficult. Cardiff will be difficult for Liverpool – they are fighting relegation – and of course City have to play United. It will be a very tight race."

Pellegrini's aim is to oust Leicester from seventh by the end of the season. The Foxes are five points ahead while Wolves, Everton and Watford are also in the running for a potential Europa League spot.

"We still have the chance," Pellegrini said. "If you lose more points it is difficult but we have four more games and we must try to win them."

Jack Wilshere could make the bench for the Hammers today after having just five minutes of first-team action since September following ankle problems.

WEST HAM LEICESTER
KICK-OFF: 3pm

DOWN AND OUT: Gerrard is distraught after his slip

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Mo is a timely force for good says Klopp

By **Chris McKenna**

MO SALAH has helped transform Liverpool from also-rans to title challengers. And the Egyptian star is helping to change perceptions off the pitch as well.

Salah was this week named as one of the 100 most influential people in the world by Time magazine alongside singing superstar Taylor Swift, Hollywood hero Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson and the Pope.

He is such an icon in his homeland he famously once received one million votes in a presidential election in which he was not even standing.

The accolade comes a week after Chelsea fans abroad were filmed spouting vile racist abuse comparing the devout Muslim to a bomber. His response was a goal to help sink the Blues three days later and take the Reds back to the top of the table.

And manager Jurgen Klopp believes Salah is a proving to be a powerful force for good in a world gone wrong, saying these are "dangerous" times, with so much hatred and bigotry washed across the globe inspired by a resurgence of the hard right in so many countries.

He believes Salah's "joy and love" is an antidote to that, and is helping spread the message that Islamophobia is simply dangerous and wrong.

"He's a role model in so many different things," said Klopp. "It's really, really nice to have him, and Sadio Mane as well.

"Both are Muslims and live in a world where these things are very often discussed in a dangerous manner, where people think, 'They are all like this'. We know that's not true, but it is nice to have somebody around full of joy, full of love and to do what he is doing around his religion."

Salah's impact on the pitch has been felt more in recent weeks with a return to form. His strike against Chelsea was sandwiched between goals against Southampton and Porto to make it three in four games for Salah, joint top-scorer in the Premier League with Sergio Aguero on 19 goals. Liverpool head into their final four games with a real chance of ending their 29-year wait for a league title. And Salah is also turning it on in Europe, with Liverpool facing Barcelona in the Champions League semi-finals as they look to reach the final for the second year running.

His influence is everywhere, according to Klopp. "He's in the middle of the dressing room, he's sensationally good with all the boys and he is very influential for us," he said.

"And if somebody thinks he is influential for the rest of the world as well then good, show it."

Klopp hinted defender Joe Gomez, who made a superb start to the season to become a Liverpool and England regular before breaking his leg, could be considered tomorrow after coming on as a substitute against Porto.

"Joe looked good. Will he start? We will see. We have a lot of players with a lot of rhythm, but it's good to have him," said Klopp.

Dejan Lovren is also available after a bout of illness kept him out of the Porto game.

Picture: PETER POWELL

CARDIFF LIVERPOOL
KICK-OFF: 4pm TOMORROW SKY SPORTS

PICTURE THIS: Klopp feels Salah, who was on the cover of Time, inset, is a perfect role model on and off the pitch

It's just the start for Jurgen's trophy hunt

JURGEN KLOPP says there is far more to come from his Liverpool side even though they are on course to deliver on his four-year trophy plan.

The Reds manager said on his arrival in October 2015 that if he didn't win a trophy in four years his next job would be in the Swiss league.

Now Liverpool are within touching distance of both Premier and Champions League glory and Klopp said this is merely the start. His contract ends in 2022, which would be his seventh year at Anfield. Asked if that was enough time to deliver all his ambitions, he replied: "It should be. I'm really happy at the position we are now in.

"Both sides, the club and myself, have a wonderful commitment that we'll really try everything to make the club as successful as possible.

"How long it will take, I have no clue. But where we are, second time in the Champions League semi-final, that's special."

ENJOY IT: Cardiff boss Warnock

Warnock relishing pressure

By **Rob Cole**

NEIL WARNOCK is refusing to feel the pressure despite Cardiff staring down the barrel and facing title-chasing Liverpool tomorrow.

Tickets for the sold-out game have been selling on the black market, with everything to play for at opposite ends of the table.

Cardiff boss Warnock said: "If you'd told me when I arrived that tickets would be selling for £1,000 on the black market you'd have been locked up in a straitjacket.

"But that's where we are and we're enjoying it. When the pressure is on you have to try to enjoy what you're doing.

"It's an amazing game and the atmosphere will be fantastic. Alongside Man City they're the best by a mile – one of the best teams in the world right now.

"We just want to put in a good performance. The dressing room was elated after the win at Brighton on Tuesday night, not just because we'd won but because of the way we won.

"We knew that if we lost that was it, so they all did their jobs. Anything we get out of Sunday's game will be a bonus because we haven't got anywhere near a point off the top six teams yet.

"We conceded five at home against Man City and United and three against Spurs. You can plan all day long but if you concede an early goal you have no chance against these teams."

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I can't give Son a break, he's just too important for us says Pochettino

By **Tony Banks**

MAURICIO POCHETTINO has told Son Heung-Min the only time he is likely to be able to grab any rest in the next hectic few weeks is in Tottenham's Champions League semi-final opener.

The South Korean striker is banned for the first leg of at home to Ajax on Tuesday week after picking up a booking in the dramatic quarter-final triumph at Manchester City.

Son scored twice as Spurs lost 4-3 at the Etihad but went through on away goals.

Pochettino's men are back at the Etihad at lunchtime today in the Premier League but with fellow striker Harry Kane out injured, the manager says that Son – who has scored four goals in his last four games – will be one of the first names on his teamsheet in the coming weeks.

Pochettino said: "We know Son is going to be suspended for the first leg against Ajax. That is disappointing but you can be sure if he is OK he is going to play in the rest of the games.

"We have to be careful how we manage the squad, but Son is so important to us."

Pochettino has told his team to be ready for a City backlash today. They left City shattered on Wednesday, their hopes of a unique Quadruple in tatters, know Pep Guardiola will be determined to keep his side's title chase going.

Pochettino, wary of a slump from his own players after the emotional high, said: "It will not be revenge for City. They are going to move on, like us, from the Champions League to Premier League.

"But they are going to fight for a massive thing, which is to win the Premier League. That is the principal challenge for them.

> **We need to be ready to fight them**

"We need to think that we must be in the top four next season. That is our challenge and it is going to be tough, as our circumstances are not the best.

"City have nearly all their players fit and we need to assess ours, and we will miss some that are so important.

"We need to think how we are going to mix.

"For sure we need to be ready to fight City and challenge them. It will be tough. City are not looking for revenge, they need the three points, just like us."

I'll always go

Pep to risk it all again next term

Gideon **BROOKS** REPORTS

PEP GUARDIOLA has vowed there will be no change to Manchester City's pursuit of silverware on multiple battlefronts next season despite the risk of potential burnout.

City's attempt to land an unprecedented Quadruple this season – a dream that crashed in agonising fashion against Tottenham in the Champions League quarter-finals on Wednesday night – has left them stretched at times.

Certainly more so than title rivals Liverpool, who bowed out of the domestic cups early after fielding weakened sides.

But ahead of this lunchtime's crucial Premier League rematch against Spurs, the City manager says he will not change the way he is wired – even if that means finishing the season empty-handed.

"I don't understand in my profession to say I don't want to win. If I lose it's because the opponent beat me or beat us," Guardiola said.

"I'm not going to drop any competitions because maybe in the future it will be better.

"Who knows what's going to happen in the future? The present is this game and I will try. I will dream next season of fighting for the four titles – that's my dream."

City resume the title chase against Mauricio Pochettino's Spurs in a match key to decide whether they finish with anything more than the Carabao Cup to show for all their efforts this season.

Knocked out of Europe in a chaotic yet thrilling night at the Etihad

HOW THEY STAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	34	26	7	1	77	20	85
Man City	33	27	2	4	86	22	83
Tottenham	33	22	1	10	64	34	67
Arsenal	33	20	6	7	66	40	66
Chelsea	34	20	6	8	57	36	66
Man Utd	33	19	7	7	63	44	64
Leicester	34	14	5	15	46	45	47
Wolves	33	13	8	12	41	42	47
Everton	34	13	7	14	46	44	46
Watford	33	13	7	13	47	48	46
West Ham	34	12	6	16	42	52	42
Bournemouth	34	12	5	17	49	61	41
Crystal Palace	34	11	6	17	40	46	39
Burnley	34	11	6	17	42	60	39
Newcastle	34	10	8	16	32	43	38
Southampton	33	9	9	15	39	54	36
Brighton	33	9	6	18	32	53	33
Cardiff	34	9	4	21	30	63	31
Fulham	34	5	5	24	32	76	20
Huddersfield	34	3	5	26	19	67	14

RELENTLESS: Guardiola says he still wants to win everything

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Main picture: DARREN STAPLES

for broke with City

QUARTER GIVEN: City fell in the last eight in Europe for the second straight season as Spurs' Son, left, joined Liverpool's Firmino, right, in breaching their defence

MAN CITY
TOTTENHAM
KICK-OFF: 12.30pm
SKY SPORTS

Stadium, defeat today would deal a shuddering blow to their hopes of holding on to their title. And who knows what effect that may have on the FA Cup final against Watford?

Guardiola, who reached for a second-string side on only a couple of occasions in the domestic cups – and even then exclusively against lower-league opposition – said winning the next game was the only consideration he could have.

"In the FA Cup against Newport (a 4-1 fifth-round victory), we needed Fernandinho when teams play long balls," he said. "I needed him because the team is incredible in that moment. Fernandinho felt good and maybe in the next round he felt injured.

"So then maybe we would play [Ilkay] Gundogan or another one. We cannot control that Kevin De Bruyne or [Benjamin] Mendy is injured for six months or seven months – it happened."

Despite suggesting he would have liked more time to prepare his side for the quarter-final first leg against Spurs – given City's FA Cup semi-final victory against Brighton at Wembley was played only three days before the trip to Tottenham – Guardiola offered no excuses for the nail-biting defeat.

Yet his failure to get past the last eight with City in his three seasons – having lost to Monaco in the last 16 in 2017 and Liverpool in the quarter-finals last term – is becoming a blot on his otherwise impressive record at the Etihad, with a worrying defensive record continuing at the sharp end of European competitions

Guardiola is unrepentant despite City conceding six goals against Monaco over two legs before shipping five against Liverpool and four against Spurs.

"We concede a lot but we score a lot," he said. "But the way we play with a good game for everyone here and around the world, we're not going to change.

"Of course we want to improve. We have to be focused.

"But it happens. People make mistakes, they play and make a good action or bad. We have to accept it.

"But all season, not just these specific games, I'm proud. I like to see them play like this."

TITLE RUN-IN

LIVERPOOL	
Apr 21	Cardiff (a)
Apr 26	Huddersfield (h)
May 5	Newcastle (a)
May 12	Wolves (h)

MANCHESTER CITY	
Apr 20	Tottenham (h)
Apr 24	Man Utd (a)
Apr 28	Burnley (a)
May 4	Leicester (h)
May 12	Brighton (a)

We have to win – it's the title race says Guardiola

FROM BACK PAGE

but looking back it will help us to move forward.

"Yes, it was a tough night but the day after we move forward – and these players have the opportunity to show they can do that."

Guardiola was adamant the sudden absence of Champions League considerations should not be viewed as a positive despite freeing up City's schedule significantly from now until the end of the season.

Similarly, he believes the extra games Liverpool will now tackle against Barcelona will not offer his side an advantage.

"I would prefer to be in the semi-finals and the Quadruple closer, so no advantage at this stage," he said.

"In November and December when Liverpool went out of both cups early, we played nine or 10 more games. But now, at this stage of the season, it isn't any influence with the rest. We have to win tomorrow – that's the title race. What Liverpool do against Cardiff [tomorrow] or Newcastle [in between the two Champions League semi-finals against Barcelona] I'm not involved in."

PAIN: Sterling and De Bruyne

COLE: Wants the job

Cole bid to fight racism

By **Darren Lewis**

ANDY COLE wants to become the new chairman of anti-racism watchdog Kick It Out.

The straight-talking former Manchester United striker will apply for the job once Lord Herman Ouseley has stepped down.

"Let's change it up," said Cole. "Otherwise racism is just going to continue. If that wasn't the case we wouldn't still be talking about it.

"It's getting to the stage where we're talking about it every week. And it's time for the lower league players to have their voices heard as much as the Premier League players.

"It's time to show them all we are 100 per cent behind them."

Cole believes the racists have become so brazen because they feel they can get away with it.

He said: "It's like drink-driving at Christmas. If you didn't genuinely believe you could get away with something you wouldn't keep doing it."

Solskjaer's side are not solid says Silva

FROM BACK PAGE

has struggled with injury he has barely produced a performance of any note since.

Solskjaer said Martial was not alone in needing to produce more for the cause in the closing stages of the season, with a top-four spot still up for grabs.

"Anyone that plays for Manchester United has to deliver, to stay in the squad and stay in the team and Anthony is no different to Rashy [Marcus Rashford] or Rom [Romelu Lukaku] or Alexis [Sanchez] or the many forwards we have to choose from," he added. "It's down to players, about taking ownership.

"Every day in training, every game when you're playing there's no hiding place and everyone can see what your level's at. That's what we spoke about at Barcelona, when you're at big stadiums you've got to step up, make good decisions."

EVERTON
MANCHESTER UTD
KICK-OFF: 1.30pm TOMORROW, SKY SPORTS

United have lost four away games in a row including crashing out of the Champions League at the Nou Camp and tomorrow they travel to face an Everton side who have beaten Arsenal and Chelsea in their last two home games.

Toffees boss Marco Silva believes the form United showed to land Solskjaer the job full-time – a run of 14 wins in 17 matches from December to March – masked a vulnerability.

"Sometimes even if you achieve results it doesn't mean you are in a fantastic situation, that you are really solid," he said.

"When you analyse United, I can see in them very good things but I can see also some things we can exploit."

United have not kept a clean sheet in 10 games in all competitions. And Silva believes that while they remain capable of blistering counter-attacks, a run of just six goals in seven games suggests teams are starting to nullify that threat.

"They have one way to play and they can exploit really well mistakes of the opponent because they have this quality – high speed and really strong players in the attack line," said Silva. "But if you are in a good day you can create problems for them. They are a strong side but if we are on our best level we can beat United."

Solskjaer has been boosted by the likely availability of Ander Herrera for tomorrow's game.

But with Manchester City and Chelsea visiting Old Trafford next week before United visit to Huddersfield then play Cardiff at home to close the season, Solskjaer's target of 12 points from their last five games to bag a top-four finish leaves little margin for error.

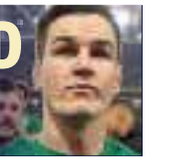
"There is no shame in going out to Barcelona but you have to get on with it quickly," he said. "We spoke about it, forget about this, we're out but we want to be here again and to be back at these stadiums."

SOLSKJAER: 'You have to step up'

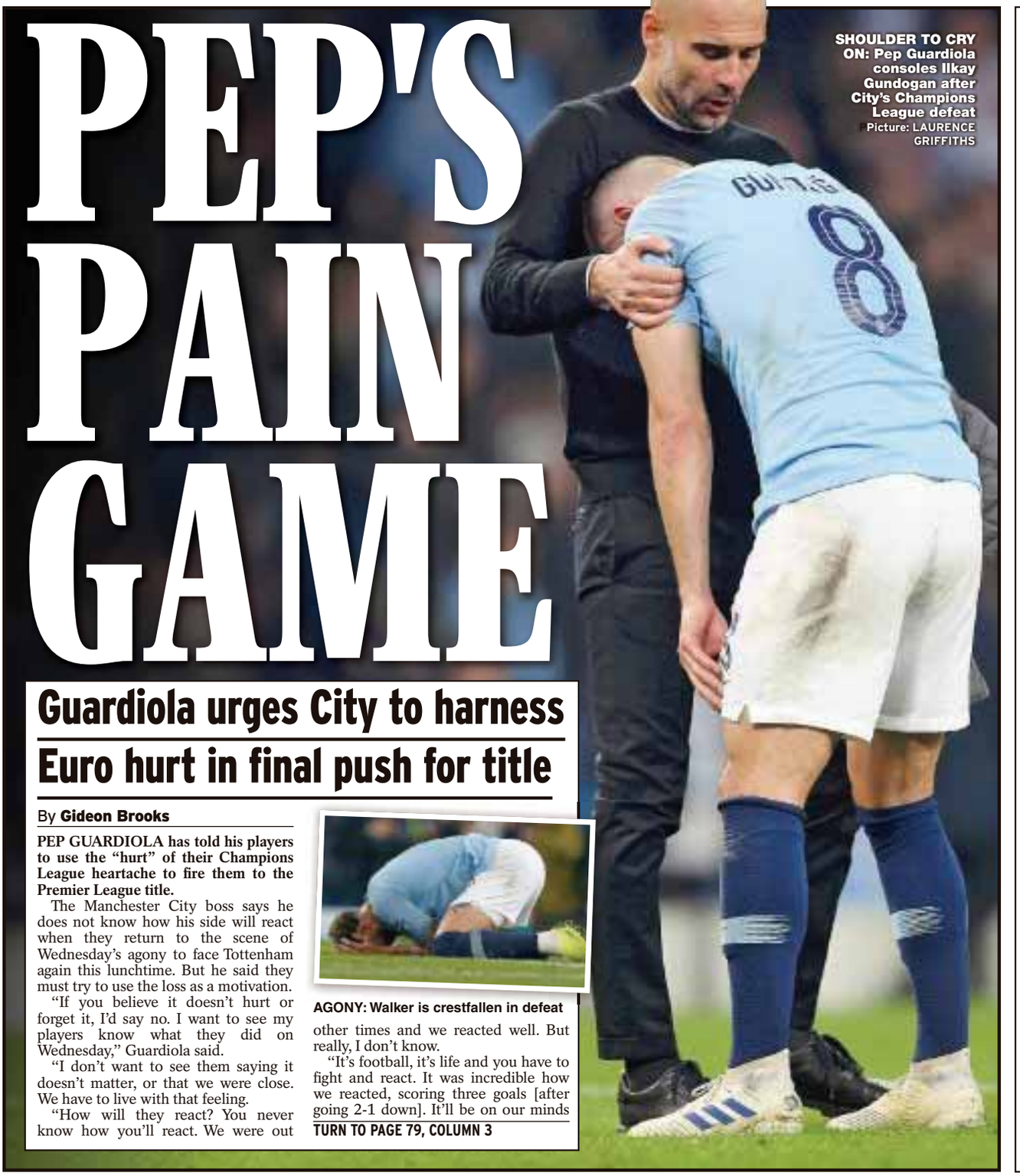
DX1ST

O'DRISCOLL BACKS 'HIGH CALIBRE' FARRELL AND SEXTON TO BOUNCE BACK IN EUROPE

SEE PAGE 70



PEP'S PAIN GAME



SHOULDER TO CRY ON: Pep Guardiola consoles Ilkay Gundogan after City's Champions League defeat Picture: LAURENCE GRIFFITHS

Guardiola urges City to harness Euro hurt in final push for title

By **Gideon Brooks**

PEP GUARDIOLA has told his players to use the "hurt" of their Champions League heartache to fire them to the Premier League title.

The Manchester City boss says he does not know how his side will react when they return to the scene of Wednesday's agony to face Tottenham again this lunchtime. But he said they must try to use the loss as a motivation.

"If you believe it doesn't hurt or forget it, I'd say no. I want to see my players know what they did on Wednesday," Guardiola said.

"I don't want to see them saying it doesn't matter, or that we were close. We have to live with that feeling.

"How will they react? You never know how you'll react. We were out other times and we reacted well. But really, I don't know.

"It's football, it's life and you have to fight and react. It was incredible how we reacted, scoring three goals [after going 2-1 down]. It'll be on our minds

TURN TO PAGE 79, COLUMN 3

AGONY: Walker is crestfallen in defeat

Spurs and Reds will have time for glory

By **Tony Banks**

THE Premier League have stepped in to give Tottenham and Liverpool an unexpected European boost.

Spurs were set to travel to Bournemouth in the league just 48 hours before visiting Ajax for the second leg of their Champions League semi-final clash.

And Liverpool were facing the same timeline between a league trip to Newcastle and welcoming Barcelona to Anfield for their second-leg clash.

The Dutch FA have cancelled a full round of Eredivisie fixtures before Ajax meet Spurs in the first leg on April 30.

And the Premier League are now in talks with the two English clubs and television broadcasters to select new dates for both games.

When the fixtures were announced, Spurs manager Mauricio Pochettino said: "It will be tough. For the semi-final we need to make sure both teams have the same days to prepare, the same gap between the first leg and second leg, if we want to be fair.

"In the semi-final, both teams deserve to have the same preparation."

CRUCIAL SON: PAGE 78

POCHETTINO: Preparation

MARTIAL: Must deliver

Solskjaer lays down law to Martial

By **Gideon Brooks**

OLE GUNNAR SOLSKJAER says Anthony Martial is one of a number of Manchester United players needing a "reality check" about where they are in their careers.

In a hard-hitting critique, the United manager claimed that while most of his squad have impressed with their attitude since he took over in December, others need to step up. Solskjaer did not hold back in calling for Martial to give more to justify both the faith the club have in him and to deliver on his undoubted talent.

"Most of them have really impressed in their attitude and some need to get a reality check of where they're at, but most of these know they can improve if they keep working as they do," said Solskjaer.

"I've spoken to individuals – Anthony is one – about what we expect from them. Anthony's got a massive talent, got a new contract so knows we believe in him, so just keep working."

Martial signed a new five-year deal in January and while he

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